



Sightlines

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The Houston skyline is very welcoming with its mixture of skyscrapers, sports venues, and attractions. With only a few short months until USITT's 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo rolls into Houston, find out about special regional events and attractions, plus special exhibits at Stage Expo within this month's issue.

Photo/Jim Olive, Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau



Conference & Stage Expo

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A performance of *Othello* at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Texas is just one of many offerings unique to the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in March 2008.

Photo/Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau

Othello, Workshops Highlight Houston's Regional Flavor

Janet Harreld

Houston Promotions Coordinator

What to do, what to do? There are so many choices that your head will spin, so Nick Philips and I would like to shed a little more light on how you might spend your "free time" in Houston in and around the 2008 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in March.

Othello, directed by Alley Theatre Associate Artist Scott Schwartz, will be opening just about the time everyone arrives in Houston. (Tickets are available for the Tuesday evening performance which will include a talkback and transportation for USITT folks). Just in case you aren't familiar with Mr. Schwartz' work, he directed that wonderfully weird and wacky play, *Bat Boy: the Musical*, off-Broadway several years ago, and *The Foreigner*, starring Matthew Broderick for Roundabout Theatre Company. He just opened a one woman show, *Curvy Widow*, starring Cybil Sheppard at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. This will be Mr. Schwartz' second Shakespeare for the Alley. His production last season of *Much Ado About Nothing* was hailed by critics as a wonderfully inventive, gorgeous, multi-faceted production. *Othello* promises to be nothing less.

Mr. Schwartz is working again with set designer Walt Spangler, who was responsible for the playful atmosphere of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Mr. Spangler is renowned for his ingenious approach in productions such as Center Stage's *Pajama Game* set of a giant sewing machine. He has designed across the United

States for companies such as the Goodman and the Long Wharf as well as for domestic and overseas opera companies.

Othello promises to be not just another production of the dark, tragic tale of love and jealousy. It should provide an opportunity to experience theatrical artistry at its very best. The Alley's new production facilities in the office building just behind the theatres must be seen to be appreciated. No longer are the shops and production offices banned to the dark, and often dank, underground (thank you Tropical Storm Allison!).

The five-story scene shop is in the center of the building where a skylight floods the space with natural daylight. The costume shop takes up most of one side of the building and has windows facing downtown, providing the bonus of a spectacular view. Properties and wigs fared well in their spaces, too. Participants in the *Painting with Pneumatic Sprayers* Professional Development Workshop will be able to encounter the Alley's scene shop first hand.

Ever wonder what the chemicals you work with in the shop are really doing to your system or those of your students? What about the air quality in the paint or dye room? Is your HVAC system really extracting all the particulates from your work area, and what will those particulates do to your lungs or other organs? Have you gotten a run-around from your administration about your health and safety concerns in your department? Have you thought about using lasers in production? *EHS Academy for Live Performance* is a Professional Development Workshop designed to provide environmental health and safety information and methods for education theatres of all sizes and at all levels. Dr. Robert Emery, associate vice president for research and executive director for environmental health and safety at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, will lead a small group of instructors who are specialists in their disciplines.

Rigging is always an issue for most theatres and the one thing that absolutely, positively must be done right. Jay Glerum, author of *Stage Rigging Handbook*, will offer a two-day PDW. The course covers the physics of rigging, hardware design and selection, operation and procedures, and inspections and maintenance practices. Mr. Glerum will offer ETCP credit for those wanting or needing those hours.

Costume designers and shop managers/drapers continue the march into technology with CAD applications in the PDW *Computer Costume Pattern Making*. Designers and costume techs will have the benefit of using large-scale production capabilities to generate commercial quality patterns that don't have to be kept in envelopes. One less item to physically store in the costume shop is a good thing!

And, of course, you must make time after all of the fabulous sessions to go to the Museum of Fine Art, ride the carousel at the zoo, have barbecue at Goode's, sort through the dusty treasures

and cowboy boots at Texas Junk, delight in the fabulous fabrics at High Fashion, and learn to dance salsa on Thursday night at Scott Gertner's Sky Bar.

Although this is an attempt to be helpful, it may have just made things more difficult for those trying to make impossible choices. Perhaps that just means you'll have to spend a few more days in the Bayou City!

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Hemsley Internship Available

The Gilbert V. Hemsley Jr. Internship in Lighting will accept applications for the 25th annual Internship Program with the New York City Ballet, New York City Opera, and the Lincoln Center Festival.

Applications for the internship will be accepted from January 1 through February 15. Interviews for finalists will be held in New York in late March or early April. Candidates should submit a resume, a one-page statement of personal goals and anticipated benefits from the internship, and three letters of recommendation. The selected intern will begin in June and continue until the end of February 2009. The program includes working experience as a member of the lighting staff with the Lincoln Center Festival, the New York City Opera, and the New York City Ballet, as well as additional opportunities outside of Lincoln Center. More information can be found on the website www.hemsleylightingprograms.com.

Gilbert Hemsley dedicated his life to training young theatre professionals. For 20 years the internship has continued his legacy by offering a unique experience to young designers. The Intern program provides the opportunity to work in a professional repertory situation with resident and guest designers. Additional opportunities may include touring and media events. A monthly stipend is provided in addition to travel expenses.

To submit an application or for further information contact: Mark Stanley, Resident Lighting Designer, New York City Ballet, 20 Lincoln Center, NYC, NY 10023; 212-870-4205; e-mail mstanley@nycballet.com.

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ESTA Foundation Offers Technical Training

This month:

Hemsley Internship
 Technical Training
 Fog Standard

The ESTA Foundation announces "Mid-Atlantic Technical Training Week '08," a six-day schedule of courses for lighting programmers, technicians, and electricians, as well as arena and stage riggers. The training will be held January 21 through January 26 at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland (12 miles from Washington D.C.) and is co-sponsored by The ESTA Foundation's Seminars and Training Committee and Theatre & Entertainment Technology at Prince George's Community College.

The courses will be taught by industry experts and representatives from A.C.T Lighting will present grandMA console training.

G. Anthony Phillips of IA Local 16, certified arena rigger and an ETCP recognized trainer, will present a full-day workshop, *Arena Rigging Math Fundamentals*, for rigging in arenas, ballrooms, convention centers, and theatres. Rigging expert Jay O. Glerum of Jay O. Glerum & Associates Inc., recognized trainer, will present a two-day class on stage rigging. A.C.T Lighting will present two days of grandMA lighting console training. Richard Cadena, certified entertainment electrician and ETCP recognized trainer, will present the three-day Entertainment Electrician Training Seminar that covers the concepts of electrical theory, power distribution, and networking.

Course descriptions, fees and the registration form are available at www.estafoundation.org/seminars/schedule.php.

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Work Starts on Fog Standard

The Fog & Smoke Working Group voted November 17 to start the process of reaffirming *ANSI E1.5 - 2003, Entertainment Technology - Theatrical Fog Made with Aqueous Solutions of Di- and Trihydric Alcohols*.

The standard describes the composition of theatrical fogs or artificial mists that are not likely to be harmful to healthy performers, technicians, or audience members of normal working age. It is limited to those fogs and mists made from a solution of water and one or more dihydric or trihydric alcohols (i.e., glycol or glycerin). The current standard is available on the ESTA website for free at www.esta.org/tsp/documents/published_docs.php. Although no changes are planned at this time for the document, ANSI requires that the start of any project be announced so that parties who might be affected can comment or become involved if they wish. Anyone who would be materially affected by the reaffirmation of this standard is invited to join the Fog & Smoke Working Group. 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. Anyone wishing to comment on this reaffirmation or object to the reaffirmation because it is unnecessary or conflicts with another American National

Standard, is invited to send comments in writing to the Technical Standards Manager at standards@esta.org. The deadline for comments is January 13.

For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, Technical Standards Manager, ESTA, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10001; 212-244-1505; fax 212-244-1502; standards@esta.org.

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David and Debra Krajec show off some of their bling at the banquet which concluded the 2002 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in New Orleans, Louisiana. The pair share interests and laughter.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Distinctly Different, But Definitely a Pair

Barbara E.R. Lucas
Sightlines Editor

Unconventional and imaginative. Innovative and creative. David and Debra Krajec. They go together, but they are nowhere near the same.

David and Debra Krajec may be the first husband and wife duo to serve on USITT's Board of Directors, but rarely do they spend time together at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo, except perhaps at Board meetings. They have similar but parallel interests, and they take every opportunity to expand their networks and still reinforce strong and continuing friendships.

Each has taken leadership roles within the organization -- David as Education Commissioner and Debra as Costume Design & Technology Commissioner -- and each is a strong advocate and supporter of the Midwest Regional Section, which each has led at different times.

In their professional lives, Debra has been at Marquette University since 1984, enriching her professional life with costume designs for regional and national theatres. She has designed extensively for Marquette, where she also has directed more than 20 plays, and has garnered professional stage direction credits to go with her work as an Equity actress.

David spent more than 19 years at Cardinal Stritch University, while accepting outside design work as well, but last summer decided to take a new direction. Now he's busier than ever, but in a different way, working for Mainstage Theatrical Supply's Milwaukee, Wisconsin office. "When I thought about making a change, I loved the fact that I was moving *to* a new experience, not moving *away* from something," he said. As a system sales specialist, he is still helping people learn, but now he can also help them decide what products will best suit their needs. He also now can create systems and treatments for a much broader range of presentation spaces, from clubs to churches and everything in between.

Even with the intensity of his work in the corporate world, David plans to continue designing sets and lighting or doing fight choreography as time permits.

Life has never been static for this couple who met at USITT when David was at Texas Christian University and was "dragged" to the Minneapolis conference in 1987 by his colleague LaLonnie Lehman. Debra was rooming that year with Ms. Lehman, her teacher and mentor. Somehow, David and Debra skipped the banquet and spent the night talking, and the next morning, before her shuttle was to leave for the airport, Debra found David wearing "a suit, tie and matching suspenders" decked out to take her to breakfast. Mention is made, as they recite this story together, of former companions who also were attending USITT that year. They never had a chance.

Romantics will jump to the conclusion that the course of love should run smoothly, but these two people were already busy and there were productions to mount and designs to complete. Somehow, the following summer found David back in the Midwest, where he had lived from 1978 to 1985. A two-week visit turned into a part-time job performing at a Renaissance Fair. As a jousting knight on horseback, "he was my knight in shining armor," Debra recalls. They were engaged by Thanksgiving, and married the following July.

One great advantage is that each understands the other's "terrible" schedule, and both find ways to assist in making those schedules work together.

In the almost 20 years since, they have compiled an impressive list of projects. One recent example, this summer found them in Ireland working in collaboration on an Original Theatre Project between the Department of Performing Arts at Marquette University (Debra's school) and The Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin. David designed the set and props, and served as fight choreographer and Deb was costume designer for the premiere of *Poor Tom*.

They, and 18 students from Marquette, were in Ireland for three weeks including opening the show at Smock Alley Theatre. "That was a slice -- let me tell you," said Debra. "We had to comb the

streets of Dublin to find everything while the students rehearsed. Did you know the lumber stores don't deliver in Dublin??"

A highlight was meeting the Governor of Wisconsin and the United States Ambassador to Ireland at a reception thrown by the Gaiety School. Not such a highlight was the 60 degree weather and persistent rain.

This fall, *Poor Tom* was re-mounted at Marquette -- for which David re-designed the set to fit the space. It is now going to the KCACTF regional festival which Marquette is hosting in January. Discerning readers can easily guess who is heavily involved in planning the festival, too.

They are both passionate about USITT, and the way it benefits professionals and students. "That's one of the things we love to do together," they say, even though "we probably saw each other more at that first conference than ever since," David noted. And they're sure of having an instant roommate.

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Discounts on Car Rentals

Michelle L. Smith*Membership & Ad Sales Manager*

Your Hertz - USITT discount CDP# 0341930 is the key to great savings. Go to the [Hertz webpage](#) for reservations, services, and special offers. For phone reservations, call Hertz at 1-800-654-2200.

Be sure to include CDP# 0341930 on all of your reservations.

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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Hertz offers USITT members a discount on any car rental.

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In Memoriam: Pierre-Andre Salim

Pierre-Andre Salim, 26, died November 18 as a result of injuries suffered while unloading a truck for a production at the Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut.

Mr. Salim, who had been a USITT member for a year, was born in Strasbourg, France and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. He received a degree in computer science from the National University of Singapore in 2002 and then worked for several theatre companies in Singapore.

He enrolled in the Yale School of Drama and was scheduled to receive his master's degree in technical design and production in 2009.

Survivors include his parents, Dr. Sidharta Salim and Li Ting Tjoe of Jakarta, Indonesia; a brother, Michel Alexandre Salim, a doctoral student at Indiana University; a sister, Adeline Salim, a medical student at the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom; and his maternal grandmother, Pat Lee Pin.

Private services were held for the family and members of the School of Drama. In lieu of flowers, family members requested asked that donations be made to UNICEF, c/o UNICEF/USA, 333 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016.



Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

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USITT at LDI2007

Barbara E.R. Lucas
PR & Marketing Manager
 and

Michelle L. Smith
Membership & Ad Sales Manager

November in Orlando, Florida proved to be a great venue for increasing awareness of USITT within the entertainment and live event community.

Two USITT staff members were assisted by Janet Harreld, Houston Promotions Coordinator, in explaining what USITT has to offer, and what dynamic programming will be available to those who attend the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas in March.

It was interesting and gratifying to see so many USITT members who stopped by to visit. Often they were able to answer visitors' questions and give first-hand accounts of what they had gained by being part of the organization. Among those on hand were Past Presidents John Uthoff and Bill Byrnes, VP Conferences Joe Aldridge, Directors at Large Bill Browning, Dan Culhane, and David Krajec, members Dennis Dorn, Van Phillips, and many others.

Also on hand was Helen Willard, Stage Expo Sales Manager, who was able to wrap up details for exhibitors on a few remaining

Michelle L. Smith, Membership & Ad Sales Manager and Janet Harreld, Houston Promotions Coordinator, prepare to promote the organization and the upcoming Annual Conference & Stage Expo at LDI in November.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

spaces at Stage Expo 2008.

Congratulations are in order for many USITT members who won awards or unveiled new products at LDI. Reports can be found throughout this issue of *Sightlines* about those activities, including those from ESTA and Contributing and Sustaining members.

Winner of the 2008 Conference registration, chosen at random from the more than 400 people who entered the drawing, was Justin Stasiw of Penn State University. We hope to see him again next March in Houston.

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Members of the ACN Task Force, left, received the 2007 Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award in November.

Photo/Courtesy ESTA

ESTA Presents Stewart, Dealers' Choice Awards

ESTA presented several awards at LDI 2007 in November.

The **2007 Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award**, which recognizes extraordinary effort by a volunteer or group of volunteers during the previous year, was presented to the ACN Task Group for its work in developing ANSI E1.17, the important new Architecture for Control Networks standard. Steve Terry, retiring Co-Chair of the TSP Control Protocols Working Group, presented the award to Dan Antonuk (Task Group Chair), Ole Bystrup, Flemming Jensen, Richard Lawrence, Rick Leinen, Kevin Loewen, Alan Martello, Philip Nye, Stuart Cotts, and Yngve Sandboe.

ESTA also announced the winners of the 2007 Dealers' Choice Product Awards which recognize outstanding entertainment technology products in three categories: Expendable, Widget, and Equipment. These awards, honoring product innovation, were established to recognize the enormous impact dealers have on the success of a new product, as well as a unique perspective on its merits. The winners for 2007 are:

Expendable Category -- Lex-Lox Cage Clamp NEMA Wiring Device from Lex Products Corp.

The first screwless cage clamp wiring device, it uses spring pressure instead of screws to make electrical termination so no tools are required to wire.

Widget Category -- Gel Miser from Apollo Design Technology, Inc.

Designed for use in retail displays, permanent installations, and difficult change-out applications, it filters infrared energy and extends the life of color filters, reducing labor and material costs in the process.

Equipment Category -- Right Arm from Apollo Design Technology, Inc.

Its functional design makes it easy to add pan and tilt capabilities to a wide variety of lighting, video and projection devices.

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Changes on USITT Board

We note with deep regret the resignation of Mike Murphy from his position on the USITT Board of Directors. Mr. Murphy noted in his letter that he is stepping down for personal reasons and appreciates all the support he has received from friends and colleagues within USITT.

Because of Mr. Murphy's resignation, we welcome Andi Lyons who will complete the remainder of Mr. Murphy's term as a Director at Large. Ms. Lyons has been a member of USITT since 1982 and served as Technical Production Commissioner for several years. She is currently Vice Commissioner for Women's Issues for the Technical Production Commission and a member of the Institute's Membership Committee. She will serve until June 2009.

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Scenographer Website Updated

The Scenographer recently upgraded its website, www.thescenographer.com, and relaunched the home page with an exclusive presentation featuring the construction and mounting of the new FIAT 500 stand at the Frankfurt Motorshow by Massimo Pasquali, art director and creative advisor.

British production designer Peter Lamont, Oscar recipient for *Titanic*, was broadcast (streamed live) from Venice at the Auditorium di Santa Margherita November 27. The webcast included the *Forum On New Frontiers In Contemporary Scenography: The Digital Age*, with an international panel of industry experts in digital technologies for the entertainment industry. In a video conference link-up live from Vancouver, visual effects producer Ron Martin demonstrated the creative side of real-time CGI insertion with live action for virtual sets for the web-based sci-fi series *Sanctuary*.

These are the first programs *The Scenographer* has planned for its new site. The site is being mapped for rapid, easy viewing. The home page features a video which reflects the themes of the four main zones: film, theatre, television and entertainment in general. Each month, a fresh "making-of" will feature set design for filmed or live entertainment projects, from concept to construction, exclusive interviews with designers, and an in-depth look at techniques, new products, and innovations. The site gives an international window on events, trade fairs, awards,

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forums, and conferences in the entertainment sphere.

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2008 TCG National Conference June 10 to 14

TCG is planning five exhilarating days when it will gather 5,000 performing arts professionals in Colorado for Taking Action Together!

The 2008 TCG National Conference will be held in conjunction with the 2008 National Performing Arts Convention in Denver, Colorado, June 10 to 14. The National Performing Arts Convention will present important voices from the performing arts and beyond in keynote speeches, the best and brightest problem solvers in workshop and breakout sessions, and opportunities for building relationships between arts disciplines. In addition to convention events, TCG will host a variety of theatre-specific activities including events at the Denver Center Theatre Company and the Curious Theatre Company.

Registration begins on January 7. Visit the [Events](#) section of the website or the [National Performing Arts Convention](#) website for more information. A TCG press release on the convention can be found in the [About TCG](#) section of the website.

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Rosco Assists Hemsley Programs

Rosco Laboratories Inc. recently presented a royalty payment of \$3,274 from the color, Hemsley Blue (R361), to The Hemsley Lighting Programs at LDI in Orlando. Total royalties are \$5,336 to date.

Hemsley Blue was created by Mark Stanley, resident lighting designer for the New York City Ballet, at the suggestion of Stan Miller, in memory of Gilbert Hemsley. Rosco has pledged to donate the royalties from the sale of Hemsley Blue to support the Hemsley Lighting Programs, a not-for-profit foundation offering internships, master classes, USITT seminars, and professionally critiqued portfolio reviews as a tribute to the late Mr. Hemsley.

During his lifetime as a noted Broadway, opera, and dance lighting designer and University of Wisconsin-Madison professor, Mr. Hemsley dedicated himself to training young theatre professionals. For 23 years his spirit and legacy have lived on through the generous support of his students, colleagues, and friends. Each year, the Hemsley Lighting Programs strive to bring students and professionals together in unique ways that bridge the gap between the academic and professional worlds. Rosco's support will help allow these opportunities to continue.

For more information about making a contribution or participating in The Hemsley Lighting Programs, contact Ellen Sorrin, esorrin@nycballet.com, 212-870-5650.

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Clancy Adds Rigging Checklists to Website

J. R. Clancy, Inc., a design, manufacturing and installation company for theatrical rigging equipment, now offers updated rigging installation checklists on its website for use by installers, theatre consultants, or end users of stage rigging.

The checklists assist users in reviewing a completed rigging installation and determining if any steps have been missed or if all is in safe working order. Use of these simple checklists will help installers and end users find any problems and resolve them quickly before they become safety hazards for people onstage or operators of the rigging system. This precaution is particularly important in helping venues meet OSHA regulations for safety in the workplace.

Developed by J.R. Clancy in conjunction with Jay O. Glerum, author of *Stage Rigging Handbook*, the checklists cover

This month:

Rosco Laboratories Inc

J.R. Clancy Inc

City Theatrical

ETC

motorized rigging systems, manual rigging systems, and fire safety curtains.

The checklists are available as pdf files at www.jrclancy.com/Downloads/installationchecklist.pdf. For additional information, contact J. R. Clancy at 800.836.1885 or www.jrclancy.com.

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SHoW DMX a Winner at LDI

City Theatrical's new SHoW DMX wireless DMX received the "Best Debuting Product of the Year" in the lighting category at the LDI show in Orlando.

CTI's SHoW DMX system uses a patent pending method that synchronizes the hopping pattern of the radio with the incoming DMX burst to attain levels of data fidelity previously unreachable with wireless DMX. Additionally, SHoW DMX has a range of features including adjustable output power, limited bandwidth mode, and limited burst mode that allow it to peacefully coexist with other radio signals in the busy 2.4 GHz band. SHoW DMX also is fully RDM so users can change radio settings and monitor receiver strength from a laptop during the performance, as well as monitor any other manufacturer's RDM gear on the production.

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ETC Debuts Ion at LDI 2007

Losing no momentum in an unprecedented year of awards for its lighting control systems, **ETC** unveiled its next blockbuster control desk, Ion, at LDI in November.

Visitors to ETC's booth got the first look at this latest addition to the company's Complete Control line -- the follow-up and smaller sibling to its award-winning Eos desk.

Like Eos, Ion is designed for multimedia lighting rigs delivering seamless control over conventionals, moving lights and LEDs. With its small footprint, Ion is a compact, affordable solution for space starved venues with the flexibility to grow even more powerful as needed.

For more information about Ion and all ETC lighting products highlighted as part of the company's anniversary celebration, go to www.etcconnect.com.

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Sapsis Rigging Provides Services for Big Apple

Sapsis Rigging recently provided rigging services for two special events in New York City.

For the launch of the new Target Model-Less Fashion Show, Sapsis Rigging provided an eight-legged, self-climbing ground support system in Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Station. The rig was 40 feet by 80 feet and was used to support lighting, audio, and Barco projectors.

At the same time, Sapsis Rigging provided the rigging for the latest 7th on Sale AIDS Benefit held at the 26th Street Armory in New York City. Sapsis Rigging has provided the rigging for every 7th on Sale event since the first one in 1990. The rig for this year's production included over 75 hoists and approximately 3,000 feet of truss.

The semi-annual affair features fashion designer clothing and samples on sale via an eBay auction and at the Lexington Avenue and 26th Street Armory. All of the money raised goes to services and housing for those living with HIV and AIDS.

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Theatre Projects Help Design Orlando Facility

Theatre Projects Consultants was selected as the theatre design consultant for the Dr. P. Phillips Orlando Performing Arts Center (DPAC) in Orlando, Florida. Theatre Projects has been involved with the planning of the performing arts center since the late 1980s.

The design team also includes design architect Barton Myers Associates and acoustical consultant Artec Consultants. Most recently, Theatre Projects collaborated with Barton Myers Associates on the Tempe Center for the Arts in Arizona which opened in September. Theatre Projects has also worked with Barton Myers Associates on the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts in California and the Portland Center for the Performing Arts in Oregon. Theatre Projects collaborated with Artec Consultants on the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia and many other performing arts facilities.

The Dr. P. Phillips Orlando Performing Arts Center, a nonprofit corporation, is responsible for designing, building, and operating a performing arts center in Orlando. For more information about the DPAC initiative, visit www.orlandopac.org.

This month:

Sapsis Rigging

Theatre Projects

TOMCAT

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Baxx-Truss Debuts at LDI

TOMCAT's Baxx-Truss -- the world's only self-stacking, folding truss -- debuted at LDI in November. Designed for speed by the NBA's Production Electrician, Rob Baxter, and developed by TOMCAT, it is installed as part of the custom court lighting system for the L.A. Lakers.

For more information and to view the product visit www.tomcatglobal.com.

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The party to celebrate USITT's office move was the perfect place to gather several past, present, and future presidents of the Institute. Front from left, Bruce Brockman, Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, Carl Lekfo, and Leon Brauner. Back, John Uthoff and Bill Byrnes. Ms. Pannell is holding a card, showing an Erte design, containing greetings sent by Past President Richard Arnold.

The Way We Were: USITT 2007 in Review

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell
USITT President

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?*

Auld Lang Syne, an old Scottish tune that rings in the New Year in almost every English speaking country, literally means "old long ago" or simply "the good old days."

As president of USITT, reflecting on the good old days of 2007 makes my head swim! What a busy year for the Institute -- chock full of new initiatives and exciting events. As we start fresh, let's review a few of the many exciting changes that mark the old, as we ring in the New Year -- 2008.

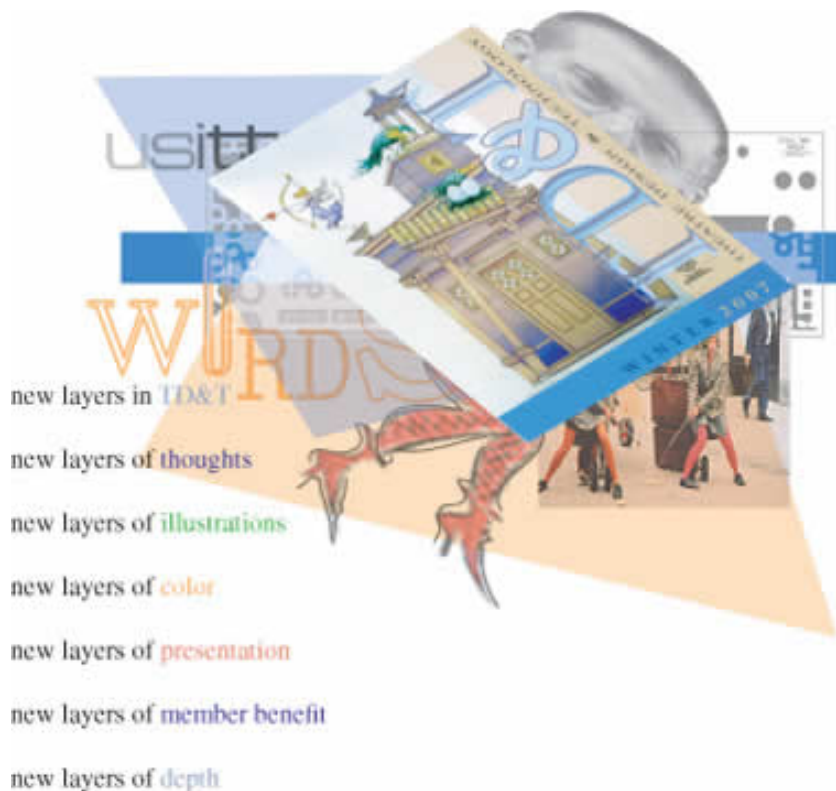
January began with a bang as an unprecedented number of students were chosen as USITT Study Tour Award Winners. This is the largest number of recipients yet. These students, together with tour leaders Dick and Karen Durst and some 30 theatre professionals, had the opportunity to spend three weeks traveling to Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Prague visiting theatres,

meeting theatre specialists, and spending a fabulous final week at the 2007 Prague Quadrennial.

February brought the promotion of long time staff member Carol Carrigan. Ms. Carrigan served USITT as Financial Manager for six years and added the title Office Co-coordinator in 2004. Negotiations were concluded in February and Ms. Carrigan became USITT's Administrative & Finance Manager.

Joe Aldridge, VP Conferences; Carl Lefko, VP Programming; Dan Denhart, VP Special Operations; the outstanding Conference Committee; and the USITT Staff and contractors made **March** spectacular. They, along with much help from the rest of the officers, commissioners, and many others, produced the best USITT Conference ever! With sunny Phoenix as the backdrop, Helen Willard's efforts as Stage Expo Sales Manager will go down in the record books as USITT's largest and most profitable Stage Expo ever. Thanks go out to 180 exhibitors who absorbed 27,750 square feet strutting their wares and thrilling conference goers with new products along side the irreplaceable tried and true!

In **April**, Deborah Hazlett, *TD&T* Art Director, survived the agonizingly left-brained process of learning and switching over to a new page layout software application with lots of additional features that make our journal even more beautiful and descriptive. Its new features and capabilities are expressed in the collage below with *TD&T* Editor David Rodger (below) providing oversight.



After a careful search, in **May**, McCarthy Arts Consulting (MAC) was chosen to conduct an assessment of our organization to culminate in strategic planning as we approach our 50th Birthday. With this assessment, we are seeking to assure that USITT will attain both its service goals and assume its proper position within

the field at large.

Prague in **June** featured the 2007 Prague Quadrennial where the large and impressive USITT-sponsored exhibit presented theatrical designs created by 95 artists for 120 productions. Read all about it!!! For the first time, a catalog documented the exhibit. This lavishly illustrated exhibit catalog, *Design USA Exhibit*, authored by Bobbi Owen, USITT VP Communications, and Jody Blake, Curator of the Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts at the McNay Art Museum, contains an essay about American design in the 21st century, profiles of the four featured designers (Madeleine Sobota, Paul Steinberg, George Tsy-pin, and David Zinn), and information about the exhibit designs and curatorial process.

In **July**, Michelle Smith, Membership & Ad Sales Manager, passed a milestone; she completed a record 10 years of service as a USITT staff member setting an all-time record of longevity. Ms. Carrigan; Barbara Ellen Lucas, Public Relations & Marketing Manager; and Monica Merritt, Membership & Conference Registration Coordinator, are not far behind, each having been employed by USITT for nearly nine years. USITT is very fortunate to have such a hard-working and loyal staff.

In **August** USITT and the ESTA Foundation created a committee to explore a *Joint Agreement for Theatre Training*. The committee's charge is to develop means of providing training to members of both constituencies, and live entertainment practitioners at-large, in technical areas. This insightful and efficient committee is making impressive strides toward the goal. Watch for upcoming reports on this enterprise.

In **September**, some 10 years after USITT first published it, the ANSI proposal finally found its way to the Underwriters Laboratory. The outcome is exciting! UL has now adopted the USITT Standard for Stage Pin Connectors.

After 12 years on Ridings Road **October** brought USITT's National Office relocation to The South Crouse Commons Building in Syracuse's Connective Corridor. The Connective Corridor is "a community-wide effort to link the neighborhoods, businesses, and vast array of arts and cultural happenings in downtown Syracuse and on the Syracuse University Hill." USITT's Board of Directors held its autumn meeting, for the first time, at USITT's national headquarters in Syracuse, New York.

November is election month and USITT members, for the first time, cast their votes electronically. After several years of study and preparation, elections for USITT Board of Directors and Officers were conducted online. This dramatically increased the voter turnout. There is still time to participate in the process, as the final voting deadline is January 10.

In **December** contracts, were signed for future USITT Annual Conferences & Stage Expos. Save the dates:

- March 18 to 22, 2009, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

- March 31 to April 4, 2010, The Kansas City Convention Center
- March 18-22, 2015- Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

And the list goes on! None of this could happen without our "auld acquaintances:" our hard-working, energetic and engaged volunteers, staff, and contractors, to whom I offer my heartiest thanks and say:

*And here's a hand, my trusty friend
And gie's a hand o' thine
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.*

Happy New Year!

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New England Plans for KCACTF, REPA '08

The New England Regional Section has two, not-to-be-missed events planned in January and February.

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, USITT President, will be at the Region I Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Fitchburg/Leominster, Massachusetts. There will be a free reception for all USITT members and those interested in joining from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, February 1 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Leominster. Free food will be provided, compliments of Ed Hyatt and the Boston Illumination Group, along with lots of great networking opportunities. There is no need to register for the festival to attend this meeting. Stay tuned to the NE Section's listserve for more details. Those not part of the listserve may go to www.usittne.org to sign up.

Students should bring their portfolios to take advantage of the dedicated reviewers there to respond and help students create professional portfolios. It is great preparation for URTAs, graduate applications, job interviews, and the REPA Job Expo '08.

Those who wish to register for KCACTF and take part in the many other opportunities available at the festival, log on to www.kcactf1.org for information and registration forms.

The Regional Entertainment, Production and Administration Job Expo (REPA '08) will be held Saturday, March 1 at 88 Tremont Street in Boston. Thirty to 40 employers from across the region will gather to interview applicants for full- and part-time positions, internships, and other opportunities. There is no fee for applicants.

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Desert State Plans Meeting, Mini-Conference

This month:

New England

Desert State

Southern California

Upstate New York

Northern California

The annual membership meeting and mini-conference of the Desert State Section will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday January 26. Hosting this year is the Chandler-Gilbert Community College Communication and Fine Arts Dept. The campus is located at 2626 E. Pecos Rd., Chandler, Arizona. The meeting and workshops will be held in the theatre. The mini-conference will include approximately a dozen workshops from round table discussions to "how-to-do it workshops" to "ask an expert" type presentations.

On site registration is \$10 which includes a continental breakfast and box lunch. For purposes of planning for catering, anyone planning to attend is asked to notify jimmiebyrd@msn.com by January 15. Registration may be paid in advance by PayPal through the link on the sections website usitt.org/sections/desertstate. Keep checking the website for updates on the list of workshops.

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SoCal Slates Job Fair/Design Competition

The Southern California Regional Section will host a Job Fair/ Student Design Competition on January 12 at the Cal State University Long Beach Theater Department. It is free.

A highlight of the this event will be the first Southern California USITT Richard Thompson Student Design and Production Exhibit and Competition. More information on the competition is [here](#). Other activities of the day will include a workshop on *Design and Production Careers in Theater*, portfolio reviews and a Stage Expo. Portfolio review sign-ups begin at 9 a.m. Design contest installation will be 8 to 10 a.m. The workshop will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m. Stage Expo load-in will be 8 to 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to noon with the Stage Expo running noon to 2:45 p. m. The portfolio review will be noon to 2:45 p.m. Design Competition winners will be announced at 3 p.m.

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Upstate New York Plans Job Fair

Upstate New York Regional Section will hold its fourth annual Job Fair and day of Technical Workshops hosted by SUNY College at Oswego on Saturday, January 26. The unofficial start of the day is coffee and a meet-and-greet at 9 a.m. Workshops will begin at 9:30 a.m.

As in the past, in addition to technology-focused workshops, there will be time devoted to résumé and portfolio review. Lunch and a brief regional meeting will occur from noon to 1 p.m., followed by job interviews and workshops.

Johan Godwaldt, technical director at SUNY Oswego Department of Theatre (godwaldt@oswego.edu), is co-organizer for the event with Glimmerglass Opera Technical Director Abby Rodd (abbyrodd@glimmerglass.org).

Northern California to Host Activities

The Northern California Regional Section is looking forward to two early 2008 activities.

On January 26 the section will hold a KCACTF design preliminary at University of the Pacific in Stockton. This Design Expo will include lunch and offer travel scholarships for students to attend a future USITT Annual Conference and Stage Expo. Check the Section website for contact information, now at norcal.usitt.org.

Section Chair Tom Hird also is promoting a section-wide high school Tech Olympics. Any college may organize a local trial meet between January and March in order to nominate winning students for a Nor Cal meet in April. Once three trials are organized, the section meet will be scheduled at a central location. For a more details and a manual, send a message to thomas.hird@csueastbay.edu.



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Choices, Choices Everywhere

Kevin McClusky

Costume Design & Technology Commission

Much -- it might be said -- to the horror of of my students, I wonder if it is possible to clone myself for the 2008 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Houston.

Those who have looked at the Costume Design & Technology programming for Houston, know that we have a great and diverse group of sessions that will keep most of us going late into the evening.

Now here is where the clone comes in.

Not only does the Commission have strong programming, but there are several sessions offered by Regional programming or other Commissions with a decidedly costume and technology bent. This means that, without the use of a clone or that folding-space-time-continuum thing, it will be an extreme challenge to figure out how any of us is going to see it all!

The October issue of *Sightlines* outlined the costume and technology programming. This is an opportunity to share other sessions that might be of interest. Go to the USITT website to see full descriptions of these sessions, but here are a few worth considering:


- *International Resources and Opportunities: Training Costumes in Odessa, Ukraine: How Copying, Copying and more Copying Builds a Foundation for Creative Work.* An investigation of the training methods of costumers and craft persons at the Odessa Artistic Theatrical College.

Those interested in costume technology had the opportunity for hands-on practice during the Professional Development Workshop on Costume Distressing at the 2007 Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. A similar lineup of interesting sessions is planned for Houston, Texas in 2008.

Photo/Tim Wong

- *Tenure: Not the Final Frontier*. Panel discussion about all things tenure related.
- *Costuming with the Cirque du Soleil*. From concept through construction and maintenance, how do the over 300 wardrobe members do it all?
- *Pigment, Fabric and Light—Interplay of Costumes and Painted Scenery under Colored Lights*. How colored pigment and colored light affect each other.
- *En Pointe with the Houston Ballet*. The resident scenic and costume artists from the ballet discuss the challenges, strategies, and art of designing for the ballet.
- *History of Drag and Houston's Gay Costume Balls*. A discussion of the history of drag in the United States, specifically the drag balls of Houston.
- *An Overview of the Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts*. A panel presentation of selected parts of an important collection of theatre related articles dating back to 1500, particularly as a research source for USITT members.
- *Visual Plagiarism*. Does visual plagiarism exist? Is there a moral or legal obligation governing the borrowing and adapting of others works?
- *It's ALIVE! Puppet Techniques with the Bobbindoctrin Puppet Theatre*. A demonstration of puppet building techniques.
- *Swords in Your Show-What you need to Know*. The construction, maintenance, and purchase of stage weapons, with a short history of sword types.

See what I mean? I hope that cloning thing does not cost very much!

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USITT is offering a full day of hands-on programming of the ETC Ion board as a Professional Development Workshop before the start of the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. A full day of Congo training is also being offered.

by **Luis Ramirez**
Lighting Commission

USITT to Offer Congo, Eos Training

Want to keep up with "next generation" lighting control technology? Do you want a high-speed console that controls *all* fixtures and devices, including moving lights, conventionals, media servers and special effects? The Lighting Commission will offer two, all-day, hands-on training workshops in Houston on ETC's recent award-winning consoles -- the Congo and Eos.

ETC Controls Product Manager Sarah Clausen will lead a full day of instruction on Congo and Congo Jr. This is a hands-on session with two people per console for the eight-hour session.

Participants will learn basic operation of the console and simple techniques such as patch, channel control, moving light functions, cueing, and playback functions. Console syntax, display options, and navigation also will be explored.

The Congo Professional Development Workshop will take place 1 to 9 p.m. on Monday, March 17 from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Room 360C. Participants can download operating manuals, datasheets, online tutorials and other information for Congo and Congo Jr. from ETC at www.etconnect.com/products.controls.asp. ETC Eos Product Manager Anne Valentino will lead participants in an eight-hour session of

instruction on Eos.

Eos is a "Complete Control" system that, like Congo, can manage conventionals, moving lights, LEDs, effects equipment and media servers. Unlike Congo, Eos is unmistakably ETC, with familiar programming syntax and operating technique. It is fully networked for both ETCNet2 and the new Net3T protocol (ACN).


Like Congo, Eos is available in two models: Eos 8K (with 8,000 outputs) and Eos 4K (with 4,000 outputs). System capacity includes 10,000 cues, 99 cue lists, 30 fader pages, 1000 x 4 palettes for intensity, focus, color and beam. Eos supports three VGA or DVI monitors, and has USB ports for convenient backups.

What makes Eos unique is "partitioned control," an ETC feature that supports simultaneous work on various layers of production work by multiple programmers. Designers can work from their laptop or remote workstation connected to the Eos network, while electricians patch and focus with an RFU at the same time. An instruction in the main cue list will synchronize all work to the "Go" button for one operator. Eos imports show files from many other consoles, as well as Lightwright patch data.

LD Mike Baldassari used the Eos system on the musical *13* at the Mark Taper Forum. "That's the ultimate testing ground," said Mr. Baldassari. "A musical — especially one like *13* — requires a set of parameters that will stretch any console." Eos appeared on Broadway in the musical *110 in the Shade*. LD Chris Akerlind created a complex lighting rig that required a comprehensive control console. "From a creative standpoint, one of the things that was terrific on the Eos console was the color tracking," he said.

The Professional Development Workshop for Eos programming will be 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Room 360C. The operating manual, datasheets and other information for Eos are available for download from ETC at www.etcconnect.com/products.controls.asp.

Participants may register for the Congo and Eos workshops online at www.usitt.org. Seating is limited to 18 for each workshop, so early registration is advised.

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Costume Session Proposal Deadline Drawing Near

Kate Ellis

Costume Design & Technology Commission

Now that the holidays are over and everyone is getting back into their everyday routine, it may be hard to believe, but the 2008 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Houston is right around the corner. Along with it is the deadline for Costume Design & Technology Commission Workshop Proposals for the 2009 Conference in Cincinnati. In fact, it is February 22.

Now that there has been time to think over what kind of workshops are of interest, and even to consider actually proposing a workshop, it is time to put those impulses into action, sit down at the computer, contact those individuals who might want to be a member of a panel, and send those proposals in. Send them to Kate Ellis, e-mail cathryn.ellis@nau.edu; fax 928-523-5111 who will review them, respond with any potential questions, and make sure they are ready to be presented to the membership at the Commission meeting in Houston. Click [here](#) for the proposal form. There is also a link on that page to subscribe to the Costume Info listserv to submit an idea for a session to the membership. For assistance, use the contact information above.

Pay close attention when preparing a proposal to the technical requirements on the form. The technical details become extremely important when preparing for a conference.

If someone has an idea for a workshop but does not wish to submit it, send the idea to the Costumer's Info listserv. That way the idea is there for anyone to turn into an actual proposal and, hopefully, a workshop at a future Conference.

Although the Commission as a whole determines the programming for the conferences, the ideas come from the individual members who step forward and make their voices heard and submit the proposals for the workshops they really want to see.



The Costume Design & Technology Commission is seeking proposals for sessions to be presented in 2009.

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Eye-Catching Exhibits Featured in Houston

Daniel Denhart

VP Special Operations

The 2008 USITT Conference & Stage Expo continues the Institute's tradition of offering exciting exhibitions of theatrical design. This year in Houston participants can look forward to strolling through Design Expo and witnessing the incredible array of designs this biannual exhibit offers. The Architecture Commission is sponsoring three exhibits this year combined in one exhibition. It will include the 2008 Architecture Awards, the 2008 Student Design Competition, and a display of architectural model boxes.

In Houston, the three 2007 USITT PQ USA exhibits will be on display. The National Exhibit showcases 95 designers and 120 productions. This exhibit features many three-dimensional examples of set models, costumes, and puppets; a large projection screen providing images of all of the curated designs; and interactive computer stations.

The Student Exhibit has participation from theatre training schools from coast to coast with 16 focus boxes and a photo montage of student designs. This shows the clever interplay of student design and prop-related projects surrounding a small stage area where live and video performances demonstrate design as performance.

The Architecture Exhibit focuses on theatres for training programs

The United States exhibits from the Prague Quadrennial will be on display as part of the 2008 Stage Expo. All three exhibits, including the National entry, at left in Prague, will be remounted in the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Photo/R. Finkelstein

including those at universities and professional theatres with educational outreach programs.

There also will be a display of photographs capturing the essence, excitement, energy, and chaos of the Scenofest and other activities that surrounded and permeated the atmosphere during the 10 days in June that was the PQ 2007.

As a separate International exhibit, the PQ 2007 Gold Medal Award winners have been invited to present sessions and display portfolio samples in Houston. The guests are Dmitry Krymov from Russia, the designer of their Golden Triga winning National Exhibit; Boris Kudlicka, winner of the Gold Medal for Technology in his set designs; and Eloise Kazan, who will represent all of the costume designers of Mexico, who shared the Gold Medal for Costume Design.

Houston's rich tradition and established history in the performing arts promises to be apparent among the special exhibits being planned to showcase this region. An exhibit of designs from productions by The Houston Ballet -- including models, costumes, production photographs, and shadowboxes featuring the work of Desmond Heeley, Tom Boyd, and Kristian Fredrickson -- are sure to provide excitement and inspiration.

Houston friends are making plans for an exhibit entitled, "Highlights from the Tobin Collection of Theater Arts," The Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts, which includes close to 9,500 objects, emphasizes scene and costume designs of European and American theatre from the 16th century to the present. It highlights Baroque festivals, Shakespeare plays, the Ballets Russes, Broadway musicals, and contemporary operas. The Tobin Collection includes the work of path-breaking designers from Edward Gordon Craig and Robert Edmond Jones to Ming Cho Lee and Oliver Smith. Don't miss the special opportunity to check this one out.

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Opening Night always draws a crowd, as it did in 2007 when the themed decor of the Phoenix Hyatt Regency provided a great backdrop for conversation.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Sponsors Abound for 2008 Houston Conference

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The 48th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas promises exciting events and services made possible by generous sponsors. Opening Night, the informal reception held on the first day of the Conference, is enjoying full support from all of last year's sponsors. Join us in the Hilton-Lanier Ball Room Wednesday night for hors d'oeuvres and conversation.

Stage Expo will include five Cyber Cafés this year, offering attendees more opportunities to check e-mail and surf the web. Two cafés are already sponsored and interest is strong for the remaining three. All cafés feature the sponsor's logo and the computers are set to the sponsors' home page.

2008 Sponsors Opening Night

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Three cafés remaining (one sponsor per café)

Stage Expo Nosh

Still available (exclusive sponsorship)

To learn more about available sponsorships or to reserve your choice, contact Michelle L. Smith in the USITT office at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or michelle@office.usitt.org. All sponsorships include a generous recognition package and will place sponsors' names front and center of the industry professionals who attend the Conference every year.

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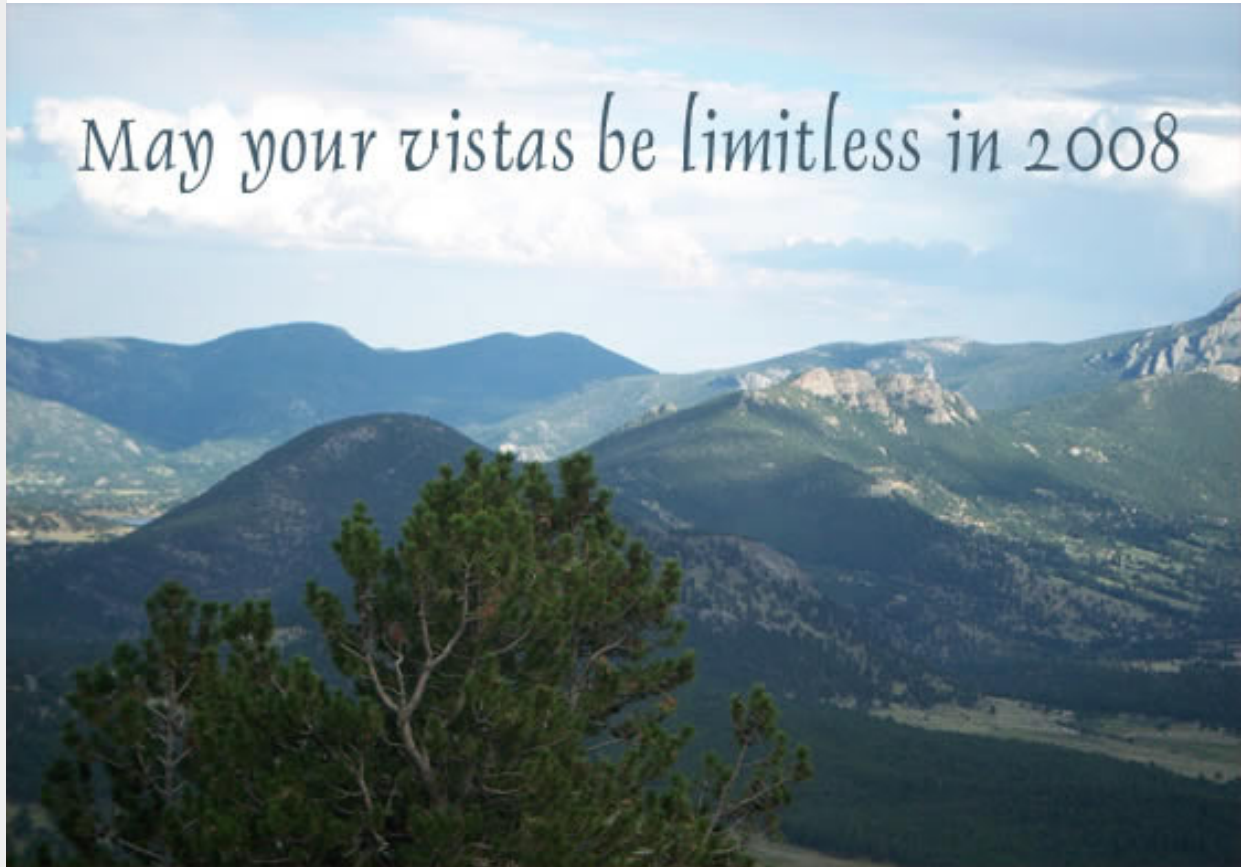
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