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# Sightlines

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This month's featured image is the Burgin Center for the Arts in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania which will receive a USITT Honor Award from the 2008 USITT Architecture Awards program. The accolade, one of two Honor Awards to be given this year, will be presented at the Awards Banquet which concludes the 48th Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas this March. To learn about all the Architecture Award winners, click [here](#).



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Patricia Dennis, USITT Secretary, reviews the statistics on the recently-concluded electronic balloting for officers and Directors at Large with Ashley Austin, Administrative Assistant

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

## Electronic Election Ups Voter Turnout

**Patricia Dennis**  
*USITT Secretary*

Changes in the USITT voting process created a fast and efficient vote count on January 11, 2008 when Secretary Patricia Dennis and Administrative Assistant Ashley Austin certified the more than 860 votes with the click of a mouse button.

This is the first time that USITT has used an electronic voting process. "I have heard overwhelming support for moving from paper to an online vote," said President Sylvia Hillyard Pannell.

The first and foremost goal in using a secure online voting process was to increase participation from all segments of USITT's membership. Not only was this a much easier process to implement, but it allowed members to participate much more easily while saving the Institute money in postage, printing, and staff time.

The Institute truly appreciated those who were willing to run in this election, and also thanks members for their willingness to take the time, express preferences, and vote to determine the leadership of the organization.

Officers, all of whom will serve two-year terms, are: Travis DeCastro, Treasurer; Bobbi Owen, Vice-President for Communications; Holly Monsos, Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters; Michael Mehler, Vice-President for Programming; and Dan Denhart, Vice-President for Special Operations.

Elected as Directors at Large to serve three year terms are: Dan Culhane, Mary Heilman, David Krajec, Carolyn Satter, John Uthoff, and Monica Weinzapfel.

All terms of office will begin July 1, 2008. Congratulations to the new Officers and Directors at Large!

Although this election cycle has just been completed, the process begins again for future officers and Directors at Large. Nominations forms can be downloaded [here](#) (where the process is explained), filled out, and sent to John Uthoff, Chair of Nominations committee, to

suggest an individual to be considered for a position on the 2009 ballot.

At the Conference, members of the Nominations Committee will meet and discuss additional names of potential candidates, and determine the interest level of those whose names have been suggested. The Nominations Committee concludes its deliberations by recommending a slate of candidates for the 2009 election cycle.

For more information on the process, contact John Uthoff at [jstud@ksu.edu](mailto:jstud@ksu.edu).

*Invest in the leadership of USITT!*

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# Announcements

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### Need Catering at the Conference?

USITT offers a wide variety of food and beverages for all types of events at the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Catered functions are easy to arrange; just contact Tracy Davis at the USITT office at 800-938-7488, extension 105, or e-mail [tracy@office.usitt.org](mailto:tracy@office.usitt.org). She will provide menus and coordinate catering orders with Conference hotels and the George R. Brown Convention Center.

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### Early Registration Deadline in February

February 14 is the last day to register for the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston at the Early rate. Save money by making the decision to attend by that date.

Register online through [usitt.org/houston](http://usitt.org/houston) or click [here](#) to go directly to the registration pages. Information on sessions, Professional Development Workshops, and Regional Attractions can all be found online.

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### ETCP Test Deadline February 15

Take advantage of the paper and pencil tests for both rigging and electrical certification at the USITT Annual Conference in Houston.

Deadline is February 15 to register for one or more of the three exams which will be offered during the Conference. To learn more click [here](#).

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### Member Authors at Conference

Several USITT members who have published books within the past year are making plans to be at the upcoming Annual Conference & Stage Expo where their books will be available at the USITT Booth at Stage Expo and where special book signings are being arranged.

Member authors include John Huntington with *Control Systems for Live Entertainment, third edition*; Clare P. Rowe with *Drawing and Rendering for Theatre*; Jay O. Glerum (who is also presenting a Professional Development Workshop) with *Stage Rigging Handbook, third edition*; Mary Tarantino with *Documenting: Lighting Design*; Tan Huaixiang with *Costume Craftwork on a Budget*; and Alan Hendrickson with *Mechanical Design for the Stage*.

Bill Sapsis has written *Head! and Tales*, which will be available; as will Rosalie Contino's *Born to Create*.

Those attending the Conference should check the Conference Program for special book signing events.

Member author books will be available online from the USITT Bookstore in April.

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### Seeking Ideas for 2009 Costume Programming

With the holidays over, there is just about a month left to submit costume session proposals for the 2009 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio. The deadline is Friday, February 22. It is time to write and finish those proposals and e-mail them to Kate Ellis, Costume Design & Technology Vice-Commissioner for 2009 Conference Programming at [cathryn.elis@nau.edu](mailto:cathryn.elis@nau.edu), or fax 928-523-5111. The proposal form is available at [pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/%7Ektollefs/prosession.html](http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/%7Ektollefs/prosession.html). There also is a link on that page to subscribe to the Costume Info listserve. The programming for the Costume Design & Technology Commission comes from and is determined by the membership.

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### Workshop Coordinator Sought

**This month:**  
 Food Needs at Conference?  
 Register Now for Houston  
 ETCP Test Deadline  
 USITT Member Authors  
 Costume Programming  
 Workshop Coordinator  
 Long Reach Long Riders  
 Poster Deadline

USITT and The ESTA Foundation are in the process of coordinating their efforts to offer the entertainment industry seminars and training across the United States. To accomplish this goal, a position has been identified for a Workshop Coordinator. The individual or firm will be responsible for all facets of events such as but not limited to; the securing venues, promotion in conjunction with the two organizations, coordinating the events and working with the joint Advisory Board. Work will commence on or about March 1, 2009. A Request for Proposal outlining the position and qualifications in greater detail. This is a fixed fee position. All those interested should contact Bill Price at [bprice@barbizon.com](mailto:bprice@barbizon.com) for copies of the RFP.

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### **Long Riders Head into Desert**

The Long Reach Long Riders have announced the route and dates of their 5th annual charity motorcycle ride.

The 2008 ride will begin on May 11 in Las Vegas and continue through Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Moab, Mesa Verde, Kayenta, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon before returning to Las Vegas on May 18. Loren Schreiber, one of the founding members of the LRLR and organizer of this years' ride, noted, "The desert mountains and canyons will offer a stark contrast to the lush New England scenery we rode through last summer."

To learn more about the ride, join the riders or make a donation, please go to [www.LRLR.org](http://www.LRLR.org).

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### **Costume Design & Technology Posters**

The USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo will soon be upon us. There are still a few poster slots available for the Costume Design & Technology session. This is a great opportunity to share creativity with colleagues, along with being a nice addition to anyone's resume! Don't forget that a poster counts as a juried presentation. For some it may be an opportunity to receive funding to attend the conference. The deadline for abstracts is February 1, 2008. The abstract should be a brief, concise summary of the information to be presented in the poster -- no more than 200 words typed. Send an abstract or any questions to: Donna Meester, The University of Alabama, Box 870239, Rowand-Johnson Hall, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0239, or call 205-348-9032, fax 205-348-9048, or e-mail [dmeester@bama.ua.edu](mailto:dmeester@bama.ua.edu).



Photo/Carey Hansen

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## Ittoop Slated to Receive Rising Star Award in Houston

Barbara E.R. Lucas  
Sightlines Editor

Elisheba Ittoop, a freelance sound designer, is slated to receive the 2008 USITT Rising Star Award, sponsored by LDI2008 and *Live Design* magazine.

This is the fourth year the Rising Star Award, which recognizes excellence and artistic achievement in the areas of scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design, or the convergence of these design disciplines, has been presented.

Ms. Ittoop was noted as almost perfectly fitting the award's criteria. Only those at the beginning of their design careers are considered. The winners must be in the first four years of professional (non-academic) work following the completion of their highest degree.

"We are very impressed with Elisheba Ittoop's resume, as well as her unique focus on the niche world of children's theatre," says David Johnson, associate publisher and editorial director of *Live Design*. "In keeping with the strong sound component of this year's USITT, with tributes to Abe Jacob and Helen and John Meyer, it seems fitting that this year's Rising Star winner is a young sound designer."

In nominating Ms. Ittoop, David E. Smith of the North Carolina School of the Arts notes that "she has quickly made a success of what is traditionally such a precarious position straight out of school. Not only has she picked up designs, she has also, more importantly, been asked back to design additional and future shows."

Since graduating from the North Carolina School of the Arts with a Master of Fine Arts degree in May 2007, she has done sound design for Children's Theatre of Charlotte (*The Christmas Doll*), Burning Coal Theatre (*The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer*), Justice Theatre Project (*Grapes of Wrath*), and others. She has also been mix engineer for Chicago's Ravina Festival production of *West Side Story*, a remix of work done at NC School of the Arts.

The 2008 Rising Star Award will be presented at the Awards Banquet which concludes the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas on Saturday, March 22.

Ms. Ittoop joins past award winners: scenic designer Kelly Hanson (2005), scenic and lighting designer Justin Townsend (2006), and lighting designer John Horan (2007).

Freelance sound designer Elisheba Ittoop has been selected to receive the 2008 Rising Star Award sponsored by LDI2008 and *LiveDesign* magazine. The award will be presented at USITT's 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas.

Photo/Martin Tucker

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# USITT Conference Employment Service

USITT's Annual Conference offers a unique opportunity for those seeking employment and those who have positions which need to be filled.

Among the thousands of design and technical professionals attending the Conference will be those who are available for new professional or educational opportunities. There also will be students seeking internships or assistantships, and still other people exploring options for summer opportunities.

At the same time, businesses, entertainment venues, colleges, universities, and performing arts organizations may be looking for new employees. It's a conundrum, but one which USITT is prepared to solve.

As part of the upcoming Houston 2008 Conference & Stage Expo, USITT is offering an Employment Service which will assist in matching available positions with qualified applicants. Interviews will be scheduled at the convenience of both job seekers and employers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 20; Friday, March 21; and Saturday, March 22 at the Hilton Americas - Houston.

This is a fee-based service, and both applicants and employers are urged to register before March 10. It will be possible to register onsite, but the cost will increase.

- To find out more about the USITT Conference Employment Service, download a flyer in PDF format [here](#).
- Those with jobs to fill are urged to download the PDF application [here](#).
- Those seeking positions are urged to download the Applicant PDF [here](#).

The form must be returned with payment to the USITT office.

Additional information -- including job descriptions, location, starting data, responsibilities, and qualifications -- should be e-mailed to Mike Monsos at [michael.monsos@umontana.edu](mailto:michael.monsos@umontana.edu). Applicants should send a resume or CV to Mr. Monsos and bring a resume, portfolio representing their best work, and a list of references to any scheduled interviews.

The USITT Conference Employment Service is a benefit for USITT members, and all applications must include a USITT member number. All those wishing to participate are urged to submit their forms by March 10, 2008.

## USITT Offers Service in Houston; Matching Applicants and Jobs

Barbara E.R. Lucas  
*Sightlines Editor*

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Theatre 2443, at right, owned by Theatre Royal, will receive one of two Honor Awards to be given as part of the 2008 USITT Architecture Awards Program. The lavish interior helped garner the award for the theatre located in the United Kingdom.

Photo/Dennis Gilbert

## USITT to Recognize Six Significant Theatres

Ashley A. Austin  
*Administrative Assistant*

In March six outstanding structures will be honored with USITT 2008 Architecture Awards. These awards go to extraordinary performance spaces from across the world. The 2008 selection panel included Thomas Payne, a founding partner of Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects, Christopher Hume, noted architect critic and columnist for the *TorontoStar*, and Richard Talaske, founder of TALASKE, a consulting firm.

Selected to receive Honor Awards are Theatre 2443 in the United Kingdom, and The Mercersburg Academy, Burgin Center for the Arts in Pennsylvania.

Owned by Theatre Royal, Theatre 2443 in the United Kingdom was designed by Levitt Bernstein Associates, Ltd. with theatre consultant Arup Venne Consulting and acoustical consultant Arup Acoustics.

Burgin Center for the Arts in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania is owned by The Mercersburg Academy. The architect for the project is Polshek Partnership Architects, with theatre consultant Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc., and acoustical consultant Acoustic Dimensions.

Four additional buildings were chosen to receive Merit Awards. These are the Studzinski Recital Hall, The Pearson Theatre, Atlas Performing Arts Center, and Tempe Center for the Arts.

This year all Merit Award winners are from the United States. Studzinski Recital Hall, owned by Bowdoin College is located in Brunswick, Maine. The recital hall was designed by William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc. with the assistance of theatre consultant Theatre Projects Consultants and acoustical consultant Kirkegaard Associates, Inc..

Located in Berkeley, California, the Pearson Theatre (owned by John & Helen Meyer, Meyer Sound) was designed by Marcy Wong & Donn Logan Architects. The theatre consultant was Auerbach Pollack Friedlander; Auerbach / Glasow and the acoustical consultant was Meyer Sound.

The Atlas Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C. was designed by CORE Architecture & Design. The theatre consultants used were Tony Cisek, Dan Covey & Scott Burgess, and the acoustical consultant was Shen, Milsom & Wilke, Inc..

The city of Tempe, Arizona is the proud owner of the Tempe Center for the Arts. It was designed by Barton Myers, Associates, Inc. in association with theatre consultant Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc., and acoustical consultant Arup Acoustics.



This year there were more than 30 projects submitted for review -- some new construction, some old, undergoing renovation. All projects were reviewed by the jury in light of the award guidelines before coming to a final decision.

The awards will be given Saturday, March 22 at the Awards Banquet as part of the concluding event of the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas. All projects that were submitted for review will be reviewed at the Architecture Award Review held Friday, March 21 from 12:15 pm -- 1:35 pm in the George R. Brown Convention Center, Room 310F.

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**Golf Tourney Cancelled**

Some things just take a bit more time to pull together than others, as the organizers of the first USITT Golf Tournament planned for Houston, Texas have discovered. Travis DeCastro, a committee member, noted that while support was strong, a late start meant the event did not come together as smoothly as most of the group's productions.

"Rather than have our members disappointed, the committee decided to hold off and see what our options are in future years," Mr. DeCastro said. "Finding a golf course with t-times that fit around our other Conference activities, and one willing to give refunds for inclement weather, was a severe challenge."

Committee members Nate Otto, Carolyn Satter, Buddy Combs and Mr. DeCastro would love to hear from members who would like to assist in their golf efforts as they get a head start on analyzing the possibilities for 2009 and beyond.

[To Top](#) **Syracuse Site of Meetings**

The 21st Century Task Force met in the Institute's new Syracuse, New York offices in January. There was a great group meeting McCarthy Arts Consulting representatives, including President Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, Task Force Chair Bill Byrnes, Task Force Members Carol Carrigan, Larry Hill, Travis DeCastro, Carl Lefko, Lea Asbell Swanger, Tom Young, and guests Bobbi Owen, Helen Willard, John Uthoff, Dan Denhart, Sandy Bonds, and Patricia Dennis, who was also in town certifying the 2008 USITT elections.

Several members of USITT's Finance Committee also met in Syracuse, to review and discuss preparation of the upcoming 2008-2009 fiscal year's budget.

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Rick Stephens, USITT Archivist, is becoming a regular feature of the new USITT offices. He now has his own coffee cup ready for his next visit. Mr. Stephens was in Syracuse at the same time as the Task Force and Finance Committee members, and took that opportunity to explore options for permanent housing of the Institute's history.

Although he missed all the out of town guests, we were glad to give Karel Blakeley a complete tour of the new facility. Mr. Blakeley, who was acquainted with the former office so was quite impressed with the improved conditions in the Connective Corridor location.

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### Rosco Adds Austin

Steve Austin has joined **Rosco** as an Account Executive in the company's Glendale, California office. He is responsible for both dealer and user relations in theatre and live entertainment. Jeff Treaner, whom he replaces, is now managing accounts in film and television on the west coast.

Mr. Austin has experience in both academic and commercial theatre, including serving as a project manager and senior sales rep for a curtain manufacturer and scene shop supervisor at the University of Southern California School of Theatre.

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### This month:

Rosco

ETC

Creative Stage Lighting

### ETC's Eos System Assists *Ray Charles Live!*

Crowds have been flocking to California's Pasadena Playhouse to see *Ray Charles Live!*, the upbeat stage version of the hit movie, before it heads to Broadway in early 2008. The memorable musical numbers are lit by a combined rig of conventional and moving lights, all controlled from **ETC's** new Eos system.

Lighting Designer Don Holder chose Eos to control the entire rig, in part because it allowed him to have only one lighting system. During technical rehearsals, one Eos was used to program the conventionals while a second Eos handled the automated and LED fixtures. Both desks were contributing to a single show file, using new partitioned control software that allows seamless discrete control by multiple programmers.

The design team for *Ray Charles Live!* all had experience with other ETC control consoles and were confident that Eos would be up for the task, said Matt Cotter, the moving light programmer for the show.

At the Pasadena Playhouse, Eos seamlessly controls moving lights such as 11 **Vari-Lite** 2000 spotlights, five Vari-Lite 1000AS, 275 LED Color Kinetics fixtures, four AutoYoke 10° lights and more than 400 ETC Source Four ellipsoidal fixtures and Source Four PARs, programmed into more than 1000 lighting cues. The production demands a great deal of multilayered cueing. There are many moments in the show calling for multiple LED and moving light effects, along with overlapping multipart conventional cues, all running simultaneously. The show features challenging lighting looks, with flashy music numbers, dramatic shafts of light, and pinpoint spots on individual characters instead of washes.

*Ray Charles Live!* also features ETC Net3 networking, two Net3 RVIs (Remote Video Interfaces), DMX nodes and ETC Sensor dimming. All the ETC equipment for the show was provided by **PRG Lighting** in New Jersey and E-Ticket Programming in Orange County, California.

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### Creative Stage Lighting on Tour

**Creative Stage Lighting** has returned from touring with Meat Loaf.

Lighting equipment for the "Bat Out Of Hell III: Three Bats Tour" was supplied by Creative Stage Lighting and included an Entertainment Power Distribution Rack Unit, an Avolites Diamond 4 Vision lighting console with Pilot and EZ DMX backup system, Color Kinetics ColorBlast 12 TRs, High End Systems Studio Beam PCs and DL.2s, Martin Mac 2000 Profile II "E"s, Reel EFX DF-50 Hazers, James Thomas Truss, CSL PAR fixtures, ETC Source 4 Ellipsoidals, Da-Lite Rollup Screens, Atomic 3000s, a 36" Mirror Ball, and Dura-Flex 12/19 and DMX cable.

Lighting Design was by Bill Sheldon. Crew included Crew Chief Wayne Bukovinsky and Lighting Technician Eric Potter. A DVD of the live performance, "3 Bats Live", was released in November 2007.

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### USC-Davis Upgrades Membership

USITT appreciates the additional support provided by University of California - Davis which recently upgraded to become a Sustaining member. Darrell F. Winn is production manager for the Department of Theatre and Dance and the organization's contact. UC-Davis will be exhibiting at Stage Expo in Houston and can be found at Table 62.

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### Cobalt Studios Plans Sessions

Cobalt Studios is planning several exciting sessions for the end of winter and into spring. From February 18 to 21, Painting for Film & TV will be held, and February 22 to 22 an Anti Freakout Job Market Roundtable is planned. Guns and Sprayers in the Scenic Arts will be offered March 3 to 7 and Faux Woodgrain with Nels Christianson will be held March 31 to April 3. For a complete list of topics and instructors, visit [www.cobaltstudios.net](http://www.cobaltstudios.net).

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### Theatre Projects Consultants Adds Forman

Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc has added Tony Forman as a new project manager in its United States office. Mr. Forman has more than 25 years of experience working in international, regional, and collegiate theatre. His responsibilities at TPC include project management, programming, theatre planning, and advice on both facility management and operations.

"I am excited to apply my accumulated experience in production, administration and community cultural organizing to the work of TPC. Building or renovating a performance space has always been a keen interest of mine, and I now feel well suited to this unique endeavor. I am thrilled to be part of the team," Mr. Forman said.

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### New Catalog from Serapid

**Serapid** has issued a new catalog of its products. Serapid's Rigid Chain technology has been applied to the theatre industry in stage lifting and scenery movement applications. The Serapid LinkLift was designed to accommodate theatre lifting applications. With block-shaped links, the LinkLift works like a telescopic lifting column with extra high rigidity and strength.

The new catalog contains information about the complete range of LinkLift Chains -- from the LinkLift 30 to the LinkLift 100. The range of sizes can accommodate from one to ten tons of dynamic load and can have a stroke of seven to 16 meters.

Also available is the new LinkLift Technical Manual. This provides details on the mechanical principles behind the systems, how it operates, speed and noise levels. For more information, or to request one of these new catalogs, visit [www.serapid.com](http://www.serapid.com), call 586-274-0774, or e-mail: [info-us@serapid.com](mailto:info-us@serapid.com).

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### A Royal Debut for Stage Technologies

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**Stage Technologies** was delighted to see the *Queen Victoria* set sail on her maiden voyage this Christmas, with the fully automated Royal Court Theatre on board and ready to entertain passengers cruising Europe's northern seas. Stage Technologies installed and commissioned the complete stage rigging system on Cunard's new vessel, built by Fincantieri in their Marghera ship yard, near Venice, Italy.

In early 2006 Stage Technologies was awarded the contract to supply the complete stage engineering package for the Royal Court Theatre, a 830 seat venue with a Royal Box, and Queen's Room.

The stage's automated equipment includes motorized lighting trusses, both over-stage and front-of-house, two stage lifts with 2-part sliding lids, two storage lifts, 18 flybars, six Serapid stage tracks, curtain tracks, safety curtain, and roller projection screen. The control system includes Maxis ID drives, Acrobat control console and a number of Solo hand-held controllers. Also included within the scope of the contract is the complete stage floor structure and finished vinyl flooring which had to be coordinated with all the stage machinery contained within it. The flying system features BigTow2-290 winches and Stage Technologies unique TanJent guidance system developed specifically for cruise ships.

This was the first stage rigging contract that Stage Technologies was awarded by the Marghera shipyard and although the equipment is very similar to that installed on Emerald Princess, which was delivered earlier in the year, the hull itself was different. The new design and tight construction schedule were a challenge for all sub-contractors. Stage Technologies is also working on two additional vessels for Fincantieri; P&O Ventura delivers in March 2008 and Ruby Princess in October. Both vessels are being built in the Monfalcone shipyard where Stage Technologies has a full-time base.

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Carol B. Carrigan, USITT Administrative & Finance Manager, talked with USITT President Sylvia Hillyard Pannell about this costume rendering by Patricia Zipprodt for *Fiddler on the Roof*. The costume plate, donated by Beeb Salzer, is just one of a set which now brighten the walls of the USITT office in Syracuse, NY.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

## Beeb Salzer Donation Helps Brighten USITT Offices

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell  
USITT President

Beeb Salzer has generously donated a set of unique and spectacular designs, *Folio One*, to the USITT National Office. *Folio One* encompasses works created by some of this country's most distinguished theatre artists. These beautiful creations greatly enhance the walls of USITT's new National Office in Syracuse, New York, which provide a grand gallery for the works.

There are seven, high-quality prints in the set. Each is a faithful reproduction of the original rendering. The designers/designs represented are: Tony Walton (*Guys and Dolls*), Ming Cho Lee (*Look Homeward Angel*), Patricia Zipprodt (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Florence Klotz (*Pacific Overtures*), John Lee Beatty (*The Price*), Jane Greenwood (*Andrea Chenier*), and Carrie Robbins (*The Tempest*).

Mr. Salzer is a long-time and highly productive member of USITT. A Contributing Editor to *Theatre Design & Technology*, he is well known to the USITT membership for his column, *The Subtext*, which appears in every issue of USITT's journal. A collection of his writings from the 1970s through the mid-1990s, many of which appeared in *TD&T*, were published in 1995 under the title *The Skeptical Scenographer*.

Mr. Salzer teaches scenery design and aesthetics at San Diego State University. He is an All Category Life Member of the United Scenic Artists Local 829. His awards include five Herbert D. Greggs awards for best articles in *TD&T*, a San Diego Critics award for best set design and two Emmy Awards. In 1997, he and his wife Deborah won the Shiley Lifetime Achievement Award for devoting four decades to the development and encouragement of young designers and writers -- Mr. Salzer at San Diego State University's department of theatre and Ms. Salzer as founder of Playwrights Project, a non-profit organization to promote literacy, communication skills, and creativity in young people through drama-based activities.

USITT's beautiful new National Office is now located in Syracuse's Connective Corridor, some ten blocks north of Syracuse University and in the heart of the Syracuse cultural district. It is thrilling for the staff and visitors to have on display these prime and beautiful examples of the work of some of our country's best designers.

Thank you, Beeb Salzer, for this generous donation.

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### Mt. Vernon Teens Ride Trikes for BTS

Teenagers! Trikes! Yikes! The Mt. Vernon Senior High School Chapter of USITT will hold its second annual "Short Reach Short Riders" Tricycle Race on Saturday, March 15, 2008.

Inspired by Bill Sapsis and the Long Reach Long Riders, 38 students and friends rode for the 2007 race in events ranging from sprints and relays to "The Enduro." The Indiana high school students were able to raise \$2,000 for the ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes charity.

Kim Craigie, of 2007 ride sponsor Vincent Lighting Systems, noted "It wasn't just about the money raised, which is important, but rather they showed future generations how they can make a difference for the better. That's a priceless lesson."

2007 ride sponsors were Apollo Design Technology, Scott Church (Selecon), J.R. Clancy, MVHS Chapter of FFA, Barbara E.R. Lucas (USITT), Reid Neslage (H & H Specialties), Lori Rubinstein and John McGraw, Bill Sapsis, Vincent Lighting Systems, and Rich Wolpert (Union Connector).

For 2008 sponsorship information, please contact Dana Taylor at 812-833-5932 or email at [taylordw@msdmv.k12.in.us](mailto:taylordw@msdmv.k12.in.us)

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### Midwest Program includes Submarine Exhibit

The Midwest Regional Section's next 2007-08 program will be Saturday, February 16. This day will include two events: the morning begins with an in-depth discussion of how moving lights can artistically be integrated into a standard theatrical production; in the afternoon, there will be a tour of the newly renovated U-505 German WWII submarine exhibit at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Marty Lazarus, president of Chicago Spotlight and a member of the USITT-Midwest Board of Directors, is hosting both events. The morning will begin at 10 a.m. at Chicago Spotlight's headquarters, with a two-hour break for lunch and travel time to the Museum for the 2 p.m. tour.

The morning session will feature Tom Celner, one of the industry's top-ranked moving light programmers, and lighting designer Paul Miller. Both men have extensive Broadway credits as well as a great deal of experience in other venues. While some may feel moving lights still fit into the image of "flash and trash" concert lighting, more and more of the industry is seeing these "effects" units incorporated into mainstream theatre. Just how will be the subject of the morning's discussion and Q&A session.

The U-505 exhibit tour will be hosted by Ed McDonald, MSI's director of exhibit projects and maintenance. While attendees will have to pay the \$12 charge for parking in the Institute's underground parking garage, Mr. McDonald has arranged for attending members to be comped the museum's admission fee. That means free admission and a walk-and-talk session with the two men most qualified to speak about this world renowned exhibit that has long been a centerpiece of the MSI's offerings. Attendees are asked to gather at the Zephyr railroad exhibit immediately off the lower entrance floor of the parking lot (this is the museum's main entrance).

For more information, contact Dennis Dorn, vice-chair for programming at [dldorn@wisc.edu](mailto:dldorn@wisc.edu) or 608-772-1006, or Marty Lazarus at [marty@ChicagoSpotlight.com](mailto:marty@ChicagoSpotlight.com) or 312-455-1171; or visit the Section website at [www.usittmidwest.org](http://www.usittmidwest.org).

In other Midwest Section news, the November 17 tour of two of Indiana University's major performing facilities was well attended. Co-hosts Bob Bovard, IU's Department of Theatre & Drama technical director, and Paul Brunner, technical director for the School of Music's world-renowned opera facility, led the activities that included discussions with leading opera designer Robert O'Hearn, and music center staff members Tim Stebbins from the MAC paint shop (Opera Painting, Texture Techniques) and stage manager David Grindle (Stage Managing Musicals and Operas).

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### USITT President to Visit New England

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, USITT President, will visit the New England Regional Section and the Region I Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Fitchburg/Leominster, Massachusetts January 30 to February 2. There will be a free reception for all USITT members and those interested in joining on 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, February 1 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Leominster. Free food is provided compliments of Ed Hyatt and the Boston Illumination Group, and there will be lots of great networking opportunities. Come to see old friends or to bring fresh ideas that will be heard by the President of USITT and other regional officers. Registration for the festival is not required to attend this meeting. Stay tuned to the Section's listserve for more details.

Those wishing to register for KCACTF and partake of the many other opportunities available at the festival, may log on to [www.kcactf1.org](http://www.kcactf1.org) for information and registration forms.

The Regional Entertainment, Production, and Administration Job Expo (REPA 08) will be held at 88 Tremont Street, Boston on Saturday, March 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is urged to be prepared with portfolios and resumes. Each year 30 to 40 employers from across the region gather to interview applicants for full- and part-time positions, internships, and other opportunities. Kick off a design, tech, or administrative career or network to enhance an already thriving career by joining us. There is no fee for applicants.

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Midwest  
New England  
Chesapeake

### Chesapeake Section Thanks Supporters

With 2007 over, USITT Chesapeake Regional Section thanks its vendors, manufacturers, and supporters for all the incredible support offered over the course of the year. From booths at the Expo, to swag gifts, to workshops, their dedication to the members of the Section makes this chapter of USITT incredibly strong.

2008 promises exceptional growth and an establishment of a true leader in the Entertainment Technology fields in the Mid Atlantic Region. To those ends, Section leadership is using this chance to reach out to its vender and the manufacturing community.

USITT Chesapeake is on the precipice of an exciting new adventure into the electronic age. Since 2001, the chapter has maintained a fairly static presence on the web, providing contact information and links to local theatre, arts organizations, area vendors, and manufacturers.

Dedicated work by Gregg Hillmar allowed the Section to be among the first to offer the ability to complete online renewal of membership, make donations, and register for upcoming events. In early 2006, Mr. Hillmar took a much more interactive website live but problems with hacking forced reposting the static website.

Chesapeake Section leadership approached WSI to look at designing, hosting, protecting, and maintaining a new gateway portal to technical theatre and entertainment technology for members and future members. The new site will be a place for all members (now over 700 past and present) to be informed of the latest products, events, training, and opportunities available from New York to Virginia.

In addition to job and resume postings, bulletin boards for questions, past publication archives, and an online store, this is the place members will go to find out about local vendors and product manufacturers.

Several thousand dollars has already been raised, however an additional \$7,500 is needed to get the site running and pay for the first year's hosting. A variety of options are available to companies to make a tax deductible donation or sponsorship. If you wish to be a part of this exciting new venture, just send an e-mail to Kacey Fisher at Kacey@fishertheatrical.com.

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## Sound Workshop Goes Back To Basics

Dave Tosti-Lane  
Sound Commission

In recent years the USITT Sound Commission has offered numerous Professional Development Workshops (PDWs) focused on equipment, software, and technical practice in sound engineering. Typically, these have been highly rated by attendees, but they have often required extensive equipment and set-up time, shipping costs, and multi-day sessions leading to relatively high per-person cost to attend.

During the 2007 Conference, the Commission leadership distributed surveys at sound sessions to get an idea of the kind of PDW that would most interest its regular audience. As it turned out, many attendees reported they were looking for a more basic introduction to the art and craft of sound design. In addition, there was a perception that it was difficult to commit to two additional evenings in a hotel, and two days beyond the regular conference particularly when combined with hefty enrollment fees. The Commission determined to put together a PDW that would provide that introduction, take just one day, and be as inexpensive as possible.

On March 18 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas, the USITT Sound Commission will offer *From Script to Stage: Sound Design for Drama*, an exciting Professional Development Workshop presented as part of the 2008 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

The daylong workshop will focus on the artistic and creative process of creating a sound design, in contrast to focusing on tools and/or technical issues.

Richard B. Ingraham, freelance professional sound designer, and Christopher Plummer, assistant professor of sound design at Michigan Tech, have crafted a program which will include topics such as understanding the functions of sound in the theatre, defining the aural space and scale, shaping dramatic moments, and defining a design structure. Mr. Plummer and Mr. Ingraham, who bring extensive experience in both education and professional theatre to their task, will cover these topics through the use of play analysis, audio and written examples, aural experiments, and training tools.

Both Mr. Plummer and Mr. Ingraham have generously agreed to provide their services pro bono, which has allowed the Commission to offer the PDW with a fee of just \$125 per person (USITT members), making it the least expensive PDW available for 2008.

*From Script to Stage: Sound Design for Drama* is ideal for educators seeking new ways to teach sound design or who are developing curriculum, plus professionals who must execute sound designs as part of their job but have not had the benefit of formal training in the discipline.

It is also valuable for students or recent grads who are in the early part of their careers or who might be attending schools that lack formal sound design training programs.

More information about this and other PDWs, along with registration materials, may be found [here](#). Additional information about this workshop will be posted as available on the [Sound Commission website](#), and interested parties may contact Chuck Hatcher, Sound Commission Vice Commissioner for PDWs, at [hatchece@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:hatchece@ucmail.uc.edu).



Christopher Plummer



Richard B. Ingraham

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## Seek Lighting Portfolio Review Participation

**Dave Borron**  
*Lighting Commission*

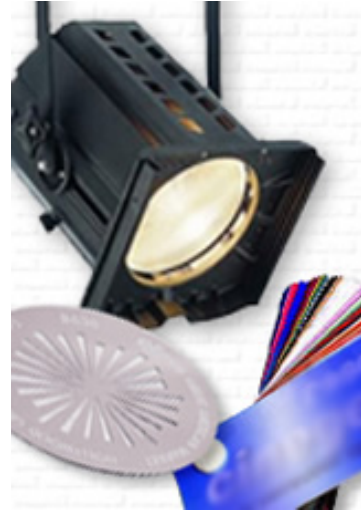
One of the important aspects of the Lighting Commission, and indeed the Institute, is to assure the consistent and pertinent education of the next generation of designers and technicians. To that end, every year at the Annual Conference the Commission sponsors a portfolio review process in which the person to be reviewed, either a student or a professional, presents his body of work to two professionals acting as reviewers. The reviewers are charged with suggesting ways to improve the participant's work and presentation skills in a helpful and non-threatening way.

Consider participating in this important process as either a reviewer or person to be reviewed. It only takes a half hour and is very rewarding. It is also a good way to begin participating in Commission activities. The majority of the current Lighting Commission leadership began by participating in the portfolio review process either as a reviewer or a person being reviewed. Beginning reviewers are always teamed with veterans, and the reviewers always strive to make the person being reviewed feel at ease.

Who should consider having their portfolio reviewed? Students at all levels of their educational journey who want opinions from someone other than their primary mentor; professionals just starting out or going toward that next, better job; or educators who are going through the tenure and promotion process and are in need of peer review.

Who should consider serving as reviewers? Anyone with a degree in lighting, or experience working in the professional field who has a commitment to the further education of lighting designers.

Anyone whose interest has been piqued and is ready to volunteer, e-mail Dave Borron at [drborron@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:drborron@stcloudstate.edu).



Now is your chance to take part in the Lighting Portfolio Review, either as a participant or a reviewer!

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## Photography, Patternmaking PDW Topics

Melissa L. Merz

*Costume Design & Technology Commission*

The Costume Design & Technology Commission is offering two very exciting PDWs at the 2008 Conference & Stage Expo in Houston. The first holds interest for all theatre practitioners. It's a one-day session on photographing the art of theatre. With the growing use of digital cameras, everyone is looking for those extra hints to work with the specialty of theatrical lighting.

Donna Meester and professional photographer P. Solozano will instruct how to take photos that reflect that art. The second part of the session will be how to Photoshop those photos, so corrections can be made after the show is over. This session is open to all areas of design interested in enhancing portfolio photos.

The second session combines the art of pattern making with the need for computers in costuming. Jennifer Smith leads a two-day session using PatternMaker Software to build the basic patterns needed to optimize time. Many have asked for a session like this, and now is the chance to take advantage of Ms. Smith's knowledge and help.

See the USITT website for details of what is needed for each session. Space is limited and filling fast.

How to take production photos such as this one from *My Secret Garden* included in a portfolio submission for a USITT Award for Young Designers & Technicians, will be discussed in a Professional Development Workshop in Houston, Texas this March..

Photo/Ben Hagen

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## Nic's Picks, A Native's Guide to Houston 2008

Nic Phillips

I am very excited that my hometown of Houston will play host to the 48th Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo. As many in the industry know well, I am probably one of Houston's biggest cheerleaders and am very active in the community here with good reason.

Houston is rich in culture and the performing arts and is ranked second only to New York in the number of theatre seats in a concentrated downtown area. We are one of only five cities in the country with resident professional companies in all of the major performing arts disciplines of opera, ballet, music, and theatre. Houston Grand Opera is the only opera company in the United States to have won a Grammy, a Tony, and an Emmy. Houston Ballet is the fifth largest ballet company in America; Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) is the nation's largest non-profit musical theatre producer; The Alley Theatre has won a Tony; and the Houston Symphony performs more than 200 concerts a year!

Our facilities are also second to none with the incomparable two-house Wortham Center (opera, ballet, and touring), the 2,900 seat Jones Hall (symphony, touring), the two-theatre Hobby Center (TUTS, Broadway), The Verizon Wireless Theatre (music), and, of course, the thrust and arena stages of The Alley. All together, Houston is home to more than 500 cultural, visual, and performing arts organizations with more than 14,000 jobs and a total economic impact of more than \$626 million.

The city's new central park, Discovery Green, will have just been completed and will serve as the foreground to the convention center. During the USITT week, The Alley Theatre -- Houston's Tony Award winning, best regional theatre -- will be performing *Othello* and Glen Berger's *Underneath the Lintel*. The national tour of *The Rat Pack Live at the Sands* will be in town at the Hobby Center, and Houston's Dance Salad Festival will be playing at The Wortham Center. Dance Salad presents an extraordinary opportunity to see dance performances from around the world and should never be missed.

The Museum of Fine Arts Houston will welcome USITT attendees to the highly anticipated Pompeii exhibition featuring some 350 objects excavated just in the last decade, while Houston's Museum of Natural Science hosts the world premiere of *Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia* where the 3.2 million year old hominid known as Lucy is on display for the first time outside of Ethiopia.

It is my goal to do everything I can to ensure my theatrical peers and the Institute have a great time and a most successful event. To do this I am assembling "[Nic's Picks](#)," an insider's guide to Houston specifically for USITT attendees and exhibitors. These are restaurants,

One of the things which makes Houston such a center for performance is the Houston Grand Opera, where past productions have included operas such as *Manon Lescaut*, at right..

Photo/Robert Kusel,  
Greater Houston  
Convention and Visitors  
Bureau

hangouts, museums, theatres, shows, and events -- places my friends and I go all the time -- that make Houston great for us. Nic's Picks will be available through a special section of my website, [nicphillips.com](http://nicphillips.com), and will be developing right up to and during the Conference, so be sure to check it often!

See you in Houston!

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The 2007 version of Stage Expo was filled with exciting events and special exhibits. The 2008 Stage Expo is already setting records. Limited space is available.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

## Last Call for Stage Expo 2008 Exhibitors

**Helen Willard**  
*Stage Expo Sales Manager*

Stage Expo 2008 exhibit space is nearly sold out, and records set in 2007 are about to be broken. A few more booths were squeezed into the exhibit hall, and they have already been reserved. Just a handful of booths remain to be sold, so those who would like to exhibit, but have not reserved a space, contact Helen Willard immediately at [hpwillard@aol.com](mailto:hpwillard@aol.com).

Recent additions to the exhibitor list include Altman Lighting, Inc., [audiofortheater.com](http://audiofortheater.com), Bright Star Productions, Design & Drafting, Educational Theatre Association, IATSE Local 51, Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc, Savannah College of Art & Design, Southern Methodist University, StageSpot, Tech Planner, The EmptySpace, and Thematics LLC.

For more information about Stage Expo 2008 exhibitors, visit the [Stage Expo area](#) of the Conference web 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' websites to provide more information about their products and services prior to the show.

A limited number of Commercial tables for small companies meeting criteria, and Non-Commercial tables for colleges, universities, and other non-profit organizations are still available. Suggestions for exhibitors at Stage Expo 2008 in Houston who are not listed on the website can be e-mailed to [hpwillard@aol.com](mailto:hpwillard@aol.com).

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## List of Sponsors Grows, Spots Still Remain

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

Thanks to the generous support of its sponsors, the Institute will once again be able to offer exciting events and services at the Houston 2008 Conference & Stage Expo this March.

Attendees will have the opportunity to check e-mail and surf the internet with ease thanks to the Cyber Cafés located at Stage Expo. The cafés -- computer kiosks with internet access -- will be available anytime Stage Expo is open. IATSE Local One has stepped forward to support a café so only two remain available for sponsorship.

The Hilton-Lanier Ballroom will be the site of the annual Opening Night party. Conference-goers in the know will gather Wednesday evening for conversation and networking. Tasty hors d'oeuvres will be provided thanks to the event sponsors.

Want to lend support? Two Cyber Cafés and the Stage Expo Nosh are still available. Contact Michelle L. Smith in the USITT office at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or [michelle@office.usitt.org](mailto:michelle@office.usitt.org) to discuss sponsorship options.

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- [AV Pro, Inc.](#)
- [Electronic Theatre Controls \(ETC\)](#)
- [Martin Professional, Inc.](#)
- [SECOA](#)
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### Cyber Cafés

- [City Theatrical, Inc.](#)
- [IATSE Local 1](#)
- [Live Design Magazine/LDI Show](#)

*Two cafés remaining (one sponsor per café)*

### Stage Expo Nosh

*Still available (exclusive sponsorship)*



Checking e-mail or even flight connections, Stage Expo participants enjoy having the internet connectivity offered by the sponsored Cyber Cafés interspersed on the show floor.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

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- Martha Marking
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- Leon Brauner
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- Richard L. Arnold
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- A.C. Lighting Inc.
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# The Last Word

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## Tips and Tricks for Portfolio Reviews

Rafael Jaen

Every year at the Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo, the Costume Design & Technology Commission sponsors portfolio reviews for students and professionals planning next steps for their careers. The reviews are in the areas of costume design, costume technology, and hair/make-up. Each 30-minute session is hosted by professionals volunteering their time. People interested in volunteering as a reviewer and people interested in being reviewed can contact Rafael Jaen, Chair of Costume Commission Portfolio Reviews. Mr. Jaen can be reached at [Rafael\\_jaen@emerson.edu](mailto:Rafael_jaen@emerson.edu).

Mention the specific area to review or be reviewed, and the type of portfolio, whether undergrad student, grad student, or professional looking for a critique.

### Expert Tips on Presenting Portfolios

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary online defines the word "present" as an adjective, a verb and a noun. The adjective function refers to the definition of something now existing or in progress; the verb function refers to the definition of introducing or bringing before someone; and the noun function refers to something presented, a gift or an impression. These definitions are, in my opinion, the three keys to presenting a portfolio in a successful manner. First, the designer/technician needs to be present (now-existing, involved); second, the designer/technician needs to present (bring before) his/her work to an audience; and third, the designer/technician needs to leave a present (lasting impression).

### Being Present, Presenting, and Leaving a Present

"Being present" includes affect and personal appearance. Direct eye contact, voice projection, and listening can create instant rapport. The designer/technician wants to make sure that his/her voice can be heard and his/her pronunciation is understood. Be alert and listen to the panelists' questions carefully while keeping a pleasant, professional demeanor. Another factor to consider is grooming. Dressing professionally and according to the occasion will add confidence to the individual presenting a portfolio.

"Presenting" refers to the ability to communicate the important aspects of a project with good organization and clarity. A well organized project has a beginning, middle, and end; the layouts show process and final product; and the pages are properly labeled and research sources clearly acknowledged. It is important to have all the required information including historical period, artistic styles, source names, technical jargon, etc. so the interviewers can put the information in context. Content knowledge will build trust between the parties involved.

Leaving a "present" refers to how the designer/technician wants to be remembered after an interview. It includes tangible items such as a resume and less obvious aspects such as the lasting impression he/she makes on the panelists. Is the resume up to date and effectively designed? Are there plenty of materials illustrating technique, artistic sense, versatility, and capabilities in the portfolio? Visual content, layout, and personal style can set a designer/technician apart from the rest or signal that he/she is right for a specific project. It is also important to remember to always have plenty of resumes printed out so they can be presented at interviews.

### Portfolio Page Layout Ideas: Sequencing with Visual Continuity

The visual content of a portfolio can be organized in different ways in order to best feature the work. Just like a play, each "scene" has to be integrated with the total "arc" of the work. Start with an opening page for the portfolio. The beginning page serves as an introduction of the designer/technician and the work featured in the portfolio. It needs to be clear and direct; it sets the stage of the presentation. It can be as simple as an identification page with a sample of the designer's work or a place to hold a resume, above.

The next step is how to tell the project's story. Consecutive pages need to maintain the same layout direction to guide the eye of the viewer. It is best to avoid displaying different projects next to each other to prevent any confusion as to what the reviewer is looking at. Planning



Leaving a resume and a lasting positive impression are among the ways to successfully interact.

Illustrations/Courtesy  
Rafael Jaen

project breaks can help determine how many pages to get for a portfolio. All projects need to be clearly labeled and properly keyed, below.



#### Adding and Handling Extra Information: the Back Pocket

In layout sequencing, it is important to avoid horizontal and vertical pages next to each other because viewers prefer a continuous flow. Keeping this in mind, if space becomes an issue, support materials can be kept in a back pocket and then pulled out while describing the project if a request for more information comes up. Sometimes it is important to have charts, reviews, feature articles (from major publications), etc. to emphasize the scale and impact of a project. The back pocket includes such extra materials that can be of interest to some of the reviewers -- including samples of drafting, charts, spec sheets, extra sketches, etc. These materials are used to show process and/or add clarity to a project. Sometimes an extra sheet or a smaller binder can contain all back pocket support materials.

*Mr. Jaen will chair the panel presentation The Ideal Portfolio at the Houston Conference. He is a member of the design-tech faculty at Emerson College and is the author of the book, *Developing and Maintaining a Design-Tech Portfolio*.*

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