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This month's featured image is a photograph from the production *Arabian Nights* from the portfolio of Jason Knox. Mr. Knox will receive the 2008 Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award, one of USITT's Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts. To read about the other YD&T winners, click [here](#). For more images from their portfolios, visit The Last Word.

Photo/Courtesy Jason Knox



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Michael Billings' work, left, earned him one of the the USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts. He will receive the USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Stage Technology at the 48th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas.

by **Ashley A. Austin**
Administrative Assistant

2008 YD&T Award Winners Announced

Ten outstanding young designers and technicians will be honored with awards during USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas in March. The recipients were selected after an adjudication process which included jury members drawn from USITT's ranks and representatives of the individuals and companies who sponsor the awards.

Rick Miller of North Carolina School of the Arts is the winner of the *KM Fabrics, Inc. Technical Production Award*. Henry Grillo nominated Mr. Miller, who is schedule to graduate in June. Michael O'Nele, technical director at the University of Memphis, noted Mr. Miller's "excellent carpentry skills."

Jason Knox will receive the *Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award*. Richard Thomas nominated Mr. Knox, who is scheduled to graduate in December from Purdue University. A reviewer of his design portfolio noted "Mr. Knox stands out above all other nominees this year."

Ben Pilat, winner of the *USITT Lighting Design Award* sponsored by *Barbizon*, will be graduating from Boston University in May. Mr. Pilat was nominated by Roger Meeker who compliments his "well-planned and well-executed" work.

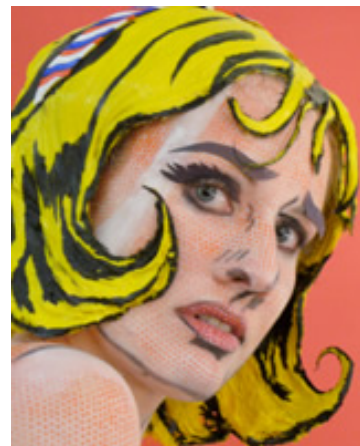
Steven Kemp will be honored with the *USITT Scene Design Award* sponsored by *Rose Brand*. Judith Dolan nominated the University of California at San Diego student who is scheduled to graduate in March. His work was praised as "highly innovated and extremely well thought out."

Kevin Thacker, a student at the University of Connecticut, was selected for the *USITT Costume Design and Technology Award* sponsored by *Zelma H. Weisfeld*. Mr. Thacker, who will receive his degree in May, was nominated by Laura Crow. Ms. Weisfeld based her decision on "the quality of his presentation, including the variety."

Chris Brown will receive the *USITT Frederick A. Buerki Scenic Technology Award* sponsored by *Bernhard R. Works*. The candidate for May graduation from the Yale School of Drama was nominated by Ben Sammler.

Kaylan M. Paisley, winner of the *USITT Makeup Design Award* sponsored by *Kryolan*, will graduate in May from the North Carolina School of the Arts. Nominated by Michael Meyer,

Kaylan M. Paisley (design below) will receive the USITT Makeup Design Award sponsored by Kryolan.



Ms. Paisley was noted as being a “great designer, and team worker as well as a self-starter.”

Collin Ranney is the winner of the *USITT W. Oren Parker Scene Design Award* sponsored by *Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.* He was nominated by Lynne Koscielniak. The University at Buffalo student impressed adjudicators with an outstanding combination of research, sketches, and production photos.

Claire Diedrich is the recipient of the *USITT Stage Management Award* sponsored by *Clear-Com*. David Grindle nominated Ms. Diedrich, an Indiana University student, for the honor.

Michael Billings will receive the *USITT Lighting Design Award* sponsored by *Stage Technology*. The candidate for May graduation from the University of Connecticut was nominated by James Franklin.

The USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts will be presented as part of the All-Conference Reception and Fellows Address beginning at 6:15 p. m. Thursday, March 20 in the Hilton Lanier Ballroom as part of the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas.

In addition to a cash prize, award winners receive complimentary Conference registration and have an opportunity to meet and discuss their work with the award sponsors and adjudicators.

Additional images from the winners can be found in [The Last Word](#) of this issue. A complete list of YD&T winners from past years is available [here](#). Applications for the 2009 award will be available later in 2008.

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Seeking Student Lighting Designers

The Lighting Commission is looking for student lighting designers who would like to design a short dance piece in the Light Lab at the Houston Conference. Designs created by the selected students will be shown in the lab and critiqued by a panel of professional lighting designers. Those interested in participating, are asked to send a resume and cover letter to usitt.lightlab@gmail.com.

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Online Conference Registration Ending

Anyone wishing to utilize USITT's online registration to sign up for the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo must do so before March 2. After that day, while registration will still be possible, it must be done at the USITT Registration area on the third floor of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Onsite registration opens at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 19.

People who complete their registration online receive mail confirmations and may pick up their badges beginning at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 18.

Click [here](#) for complete session information, registration, Professional Development Workshops and Special Regional Events.

Anyone interested in purchasing a ticket to the USITT Awards Banquet, Saturday March 22 at 7 p.m., must do so before 10 a.m. on Wednesday March 19. Banquet tickets will not be available for purchase after that time.

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ETCP Exam Deadline Extended

Deadline to take any of the three paper and pencil Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) tests offered at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas was extended to February 29. To learn more about the test schedule, visit [here](#).

Discounts on testing fees, whether paper and pencil or at a testing center, are available for USITT members.

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BTS Challenge Grants at USITT

The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes Program announced three companies have stepped forward as challenge grantors for the Behind the Scenes / Long Reach Long Riders raffle at USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston. Bigger Hammer Production Services, Sapsis Rigging, and Strong Entertainment Lighting's grants allow donors to double their contributions, while providing help to colleagues in a time of need.

Challenge grants are still available for \$2,500. The Challenge Grant Program gives companies or individuals the opportunity to show support for their peers in the industry while providing a unique opportunity to be recognized as a leading supporter of this worthy cause.

The more funds raised, the more lives that Behind the Scenes can help put on solid ground, which is something that appealed to Jahn "Boxer" Hardison of Bigger Hammer Production Services.

Behind the Scenes and the Long Reach Long Riders will be raffling off 12 terrific prizes donated by industry members. Behind the Scenes has issued a special thanks to USITT for making their presence at the Annual Conference possible.

For more information about Behind the Scenes, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm.

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Standards Available for Review

This month:

- Lighting Designers
- Online Registration
- ETCP Exam Deadline
- BTS Challenge
- Standards for Review
- LA Center Requires ETCP

Two rigging and two fire safety documents are available for public review through March 17.

Two Rigging Working Group documents dealing with manual rigging systems and fire safety curtain systems are available for public review for free on the [ESTA website](#).

The first is BSR E1.4 - 200x, Entertainment Technology - Manual Counterweight Rigging Systems. The draft standard describes the design and construction of manually powered counterweight rigging systems. The primary purpose of the standard is to enhance the safety of these system, which are used widely in theatres throughout the world to support and move scenery and lighting equipment. The draft standard does not cover motorized systems, systems for flying performers, or systems used for moving materials during building construction.

The second is BSR E1.22-200x, Entertainment Technology - Fire Safety Curtain Systems, which describes the materials, fabrication, installation, operation, testing, and maintenance of fire safety curtains and fire safety curtain systems used for theatre proscenium opening protection. It is a serious attempt to avoid offering a cook-book description of a fire safety curtain system and, instead, to specify how a fire curtain shall perform.

Two fog and smoke documents are also available for public review for free on the [ESTA website](#).

The first is a reaffirmation of the existing 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, which is 18 to 64 years of age, inclusive.

The second is a new draft standard, BSR E1.29 - 20XX, Product Safety Standard for Theatrical Fog Generators That Create Aerosols of Water, Aqueous Solutions of Glycol or Glycerin, or Highly Refined Alkane Mineral Oil. The draft standard is intended to help guide product safety testing laboratories in evaluating fog-making equipment for design or construction defects that might create unacceptable hazards.

In addition to being asked to review the documents to see if they offer adequate advice, reviewers are asked to notify ESTA of any protected intellectual property in the draft standards.

For more information, please contact: Karl G. Ruling, Technical Standards Manager, ESTA, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10001, by phone at 212-244-1505 or by e-mail at standards@esta.org

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LA Center to Require ETCP Certification

The Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) is the first major west coast convention center to require all its rigging supervisor hires to be certified under ETCP.

In an effort to enhance client and patron safety while meeting the challenges of ever increasing technical demands, LACC has revised its criteria that companies must meet in order to qualify for placement on their list of approved rigging contractors. One of the qualifications is that all rigging supervisors and managers must be ETCP Certified. New vendors must meet these qualifications immediately to be considered for placement, while previously approved vendors have until the end of 2008 to certify their lead riggers.

Thomas Fields, Building Superintendent of Show Operations at the Los Angeles Convention Center, initiated the revision to the center's criteria stating, "We consider public safety to be paramount. We take necessary steps to assure we have prudent procedures and safeguards in place to protect the public." Mr. Fields further added that, "proper knowledge of rigging principals, components, equipment, related engineering, and the application thereof is vital to assuring public safety. With the creation of the ETCP credential, we now have a means of measuring the knowledge of riggers in our industry."

There are three ways employees can receive certification. The exams are available for computer based-testing at one of 190 testing centers around the United States and in Canada. If a company has as few as ten candidates, ETCP can arrange for on-site test administration. The examinations will also be administered in conjunction with the USITT Conference & Stage Expo in March 2008 in Houston, Texas. Those interested in taking the exams at USITT must submit applications by February 29, 2008.

ETCP is led by a council made up by key industry leaders drawn from entertainment business, labor, facilities, associations, and academia representing the diversity of the entertainment industry. Membership includes AMPTP, BASE Entertainment, Cirque du Soleil/MGM MIRAGE, CITT, ESTA, IAAM, IATSE, InfoComm, The League, Live Nation, PRG, TEA, and USITT.

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USITT representatives have been involved with updating codes related to a number of new or revised ANSI/ASSE standards including fall arrest, fall protection, and positioning and travel restraint systems.

Major Changes Made to Fall Protection Codes

Jerry Gorrell
USITT Standards Committee Chair

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is the secretariat for Z359.1-1992 *Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components* and A10 - *Safety Requirements for Construction and Demolition Operations*.

ANSI/ASSE Z359.-1992 was reaffirmed in 1999 with no changes as Z359.1-1992 (R1999). A few years ago it was decided a complete revision of the standards were needed, and last year four new standards were completed and Z359.1 was revised.

The new standards are:

- ANSI/ASSE Z359.0-2007 *Definitions and Nomenclature Used for Fall Protection and Fall Arrest*
- ANSI/ASSE Z359.2-2007 *Minimum Requirements for a Managed Fall Protection Program*
- ANSI/ASSE Z359.3-2007 *Safety Requirements for Positioning and Travel Restraint Systems*
- ANSI/ASSE Z359.4-2007 *Safety Requirements for Assisted-Rescue and Self-Rescue Systems, Subsystems and Components*

Z359.0 contains all the definitions from Z359.1-1992 (R1999) and many new ones. All four new standards reference Z359.0 for definitions. As of this writing Z359.0-2007 is available as a free download: www.asse.org/shoponline/support/EZ359-0-2007.pdf.

ANSI/ASSE Z359.1 was revised and became ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007 *Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems, and Components*.

Together these five standards have been published as the *Fall Protection Code*. Z359.1, the individual codes or the entire Fall Protection Code can be obtained from the American Society of Safety Engineers www.asse.org.

Contact Jerry Gorrell, USITT Standards Chair, at gorrell@jgorrell.com for further information.

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Costume Symposium Slated for Summer

Judy Adamson & Bobbi Owen
Costume Symposium Co-Chairs

Fabric Modification will be the focus when the Center for Dramatic Art hosts the 2008 USITT Costume Symposium July 30 to August 2, 2008 on the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill campus.

Several well-known USITT Costume Design & Technology Commission members will lead master classes and provide guidance in their specialties. Jeff Lieder of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Utah Shakespearean Festival will share his silk screen techniques, Lori Hartenhoff of Northern Illinois University will demonstrate shibori techniques, and Colleen Muscha of Florida State University will show how to do devore printing. Janet Bloor of EuroCo Costume Company in New York will demonstrate rubberama, her technique for integrating silicone caulk into fabric.

The symposium will be limited to 40 participants. The first day will be divided into two-hour blocks with each group of 10 moving round-robin style through the various sessions. Each participant will have hands-on experience in each of the techniques and will take away finished scarves and samples.

The second day, the group will travel to Raleigh, North Carolina, to TC² and experience the latest technological advances in clothing production, including body imaging, and to North Carolina State University School of Textiles for a demonstration of modern garment and textile production. TC² created the software used by Brooks Brothers to create custom tailored suits.

On the third day, participants will be back in the Center for Dramatic Art repeating the round-robin schedule with four more sessions. Other events are being planned, including social activities.

Many meals will be provided and inexpensive housing through the University will be possible in modern accommodations. The bus service in Chapel Hill is free, so transportation within the campus and town is easy.

Click [here](#) to download the registration form. It also will be available at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston during all Costume Commission sessions. The registration deadline is May 15. A waitlist will be created if needed.



University of North Carolina's Center for Dramatic Art will host the 2008 USITT Costume Symposium in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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Welcome to the Elections for USITT Board of Directors 2008. Please log into the system (member number and last name, case sensitive), review the choices and cast a vote. The system will allow only one vote per user (except for the Directors-at-Large, which will allow you six votes), so please review your choices before casting your vote.



Members were able to vote online in 2007, just part of the revised and updated USITT nomination and elections process. Nominations are now being accepted for officers and Directors at Large.

Image/Courtesy VoteNet

Nominations Process Revisions Implemented

Patricia Dennis
USITT Secretary

Changes to the USITT nominations process have now been implemented, and members are urged to participate in the upcoming cycle of proposing candidates for USITT's executive offices and board of directors. A form is now available online [here](#) for members.

Two Past Presidents, Bruce Brockman and John Uthoff, along with Secretary Patricia Dennis have been working for the past several years on the nominations process and committee selection in an effort to provide a more transparent procedure.

During the process, Article V -- Nominations and Election Procedures, and Section 1. Nominations, of the By-Laws had been suspended to allow the committee, via discussion and approval of the Board of Directors, an opportunity to implement a new process (October 2006 [Sightlines](#) article).

After testing a new process during the 2007 slate development, a motion was presented at the fall Board of Directors meetings and unanimously passed changing the By-Laws to reflect this new process as follows:

ARTICLE V - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1. NOMINATIONS. *Nominations for all nationally elected officers of the Corporation shall be prepared by a Committee on Nominations.*

- *The Committee on Nominations shall consist of the following persons:*
- *President*
- *Immediate Past President*
- *President-Elect (alternate years when office is filled)*
- *Six (6) Regional Section officers from five (5) different Sections*
- *Three (3) Directors at Large*
- *Three (3) Commissioners*
- *Two (2) Representatives from the Conference Committee*
- *Secretary (nonvoting)*
- *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters (non-voting)*

The members chosen from the Regional Section officers, the Directors at Large, and the Commissioners, and the Conference Committee, shall be elected by the appropriate group from its membership. These members shall serve three-year terms, with one-third elected every year.

The Immediate Past President of USITT shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. In the event the Immediate Past President cannot serve, the Board shall select another Past

President to fill the post.

Past practice and the By-Laws restricted the selection of half of the Nominations Committee until the meetings scheduled at the Annual Conference were held. This limited the selection of potential candidates for the slate to a four-day period.

This new process begins earlier, allowing more time for contemplation, discussion, and solicitation of nominees for these critical positions within the Institute. The revised process calls for members of the Nominations Committee to serve for three years, so their names can be made public and members of the Institute can contact them and discuss the process.

A list of Nominations Committee members may be found [here](#).

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Broadway-Level Training at Reduced Rates

Michelle L. Smith
Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Live Design is again offering intensive training focused on the art and science of lighting, sound, and projection in theatre design. Lighting designer Jules Fisher and sound designer Abe Jacob will serve as creative consultants and lead a faculty drawn from the top visual and sound designers working on Broadway today.

The Broadway Lighting Master Classes will be held May 20-22 in the New York University Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. A special one-day Projection Master Class will be held at the XL LED lab on Monday, May 19. The Sound Master Classes will be held May 16-18 at the Abe Burrows Theatre at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

For a limited time, Live Design is offering USITT members an additional \$25 off the already low Union/Association rates (which are \$200 - \$300 off the Professional rates). To take advantage of this special offer, register online by March 22 and enter USITT25 in the source code box (the extra \$25 will be knocked off before payment is processed). Members attending the USITT Conference may pick up a special registration form in the *Live Design* booth.

Don't delay...this special discount is only available until March 22.

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, ext. 102 or michelle@office.usitt.org.

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Topic of USITT 2008 Keynote Announced

Kevin Rigdon, who will deliver the Keynote for the USITT has announced the title of his remarks.

Mr. Rigdon will speak on "To Get it Right in the End You Have to Get it Right in the Beginning."

His Keynote will kick off USITT's Annual Conference at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 19 in the Lanier Ballroom of the Hilton Americas - Houston.

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The information on the design team responsible for the Tempe Center for the Arts, winner of a 2008 USITT Architecture Award, was incorrect in the February issue of *Sightlines*.

The facility, owned by the city of Tempe, Arizona was designed by Barton Myers Associates, Inc. and Architekton in association with theatre consultant Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc., and acoustical consultant Arup Acoustics.

[To Top](#) **Mehler Named ATHE Rep**

USITT President Sylvia Hillyard Pannell has named **Michael Mehler** as USITT's representative to ATHE, the Association of Theatres in Higher Education.

Mr. Mehler, currently a Director at Large, will become USITT's VP-Programming on July 1, 2008. Ms. Pannell noted that "Michael's long involvement with both USITT and ATHE make him ideally suited for this new responsibility."

Mr. Mehler succeeds **William J. Byrnes** who has been USITT's representative for several years. "We appreciate all that Bill has done as our liaison with ATHE, helping keep us connected with this important group."

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There is still time to register for the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Online registration is scheduled to end on Sunday, March 2.

Monica Merritt, Conference Registration Coordinator, reminds those who have already registered that they can pick up their badges, needed to attend any Conference session, beginning at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 in the third floor lobby of the George R. Brown Convention Center.

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Hand Held Remote Extends Motion Control

J.R. Clancy, Inc., a design, manufacturing and installation company for rigging equipment, announced the availability of a hand held device that extends the capabilities of the SceneControl automated motion control system to any point in the theatre. SceneControl Hand Held Remote has a six-inch, graphic touchscreen in two-dimensional color and 14 function keys that allow the operator to select sets or multiple sets and move them between show-specific soft limits. From the touch screen, the operator can see and execute the presets and cues that were written on the theatre's SceneControl 500 console.

The new hand held remote extends J.R. Clancy's automated motion control offerings in its SceneControl brand. More information on SceneControl Hand Held Remote is available from J.R. Clancy at 800-836-1885 or www.jrclancy.com.

This month:
J.R. Clancy, Inc.
Rose Brand

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Mark O'Brien, a scenic industry professional, has joined **Rose Brand** as a sales representative in Secaucus, New Jersey. Rose Brand is the premier industry supplier of custom sewn creations, flame retardant specialty fabrics, and production supplies for the entertainment, theatrical, special event, worship, and educational markets.

"His experience as a carpenter, welder, draftsman, and scenic shop supervisor made him a Rose Brand customer. As a member of the sales team, his experienced background will further our goals of providing the top level of support and expertise to our customers' productions," said George Jacobstein, Rose Brand President.

After graduating from Rutgers University - Mason Gross School of the Arts with a BFA in technical theatre, Mr. O'Brien worked at numerous scenic shops including Acadia Scenic, Paper Mill Scene Shop, and Hudson Scenic Studios as production manager.

Rose Brand provided voile sheer curtains to the Meetinghouse Companies to use for its showcase event, Chocolate Decadence, at Temptation in the 2008 Catersource Conference and Tradeshow, and Event Solutions Idea Factory February 24 to 28 in Las Vegas, Nevada. It focused on chocolate as the ultimate temptation.

Rose Brand drapes have been used during numerous presidential and legislative campaigns. The company is a leading supplier of rental drapery in America including Ceremonial Red, Presidential Blue, or Freedom White velour drapery. The company also rents LED Star Drops and Soft LED curtain for a little more sparkle or media pizzazz. Call 800-223-1624 or 800-360-5056 for more information.

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Welcome to LynTec!

The Institute welcomes **LynTec**, which is both a new exhibitor at the 2008 Stage Expo in Houston, Texas and a new Sustaining member of the organization.

More information about LynTec, a leader in providing remotely operated AC power control for sound and lighting systems in entertainment venues throughout the United States, can be found on the web at www.lyntec.com.

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Wireless Solution also Welcomed

Another new Sustaining member, **Wireless Solution**, has joined USITT. The company's broad range of products for wireless distribution of DMX512 is used world-wide in indoor and outdoor applications by professional users ranging from the largest televised productions, major world events, and live music to theaters, opera houses, and blockbuster movies to architectural installations. Available are a complete line of transmitters, receivers, boosters, repeaters, antennas, and other accessories to build a wireless DMX distribution system to suit any venue or site. They can be found on the web at www.wirelessdmx.com.

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Hall Stage North America Joins

We also welcome as a new Sustaining member **Hall Stage North America, Inc.** The company, which was established in 1898, believes it has supplied equipment to every theatre in the United Kingdom and for thousands of theatres, television, and film studios throughout the world. It has business partners in over 50 countries. Information about this interesting company is available at www.hallstage.com. Contact person is Charles Haines.

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Bright Star Joins USITT

Also very welcome is new Sustaining member **Bright Star Productions, Inc.**, which provides sound, lights, video, and special effects.

Bright Star Productions will be in Booth 930 at Stage Expo 2008 in Houston, Texas and information about the company may be found on the web at www.brightstarproductions.com.

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Welcome to Selador/Shine Lighting

We are pleased to announce that **Selador/Shine Lighting** has increased its level of support to that of a Sustaining Member. Selador is headed by Robert Gerlach, who received grant support from USITT for his work with LED lighting.

Mr. Gerlach will be presenting a session at USITT's 2008 Annual Conference in Houston this March.

To find out more about his company, visit www.selador.net.

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LPI Joins Institute

Live Production Institute has joined at the Sustaining member level. The organization notes it integrates a state-of-the-art facility with industry standard equipment, hands-on education, and training by industry professionals in audio, lighting, video, and stage technologies. It has a 65,00 square-foot facility in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Learn more about LPI at www.lpivegas.com or visit them at Booth 190 at Stage Expo 2008.

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Thern Introduces Power Clew Winch

This month:
LynTec

Wireless Solution

Hall Stage N. America

Bright Star

Selador/Shine Lighting

Live Production Institute

Thern, Inc.

Thern, Inc. continues to establish itself as a premiere theatre equipment manufacturer adding a new, motorized clew winch unit to its growing theatre product line.

Featuring a solid steel frame construction, the power clew is available with single and three-phase motor configurations and provides smooth, reliable operation for single- and multi-line loads up to 1,100 pounds. Grooved drum and motor mounted disc brakes are available per customer request.

Learn more about Thern products at www.thern.com, send an e-mail to info@thern.com, or call 1-800-843-7648.

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Shown at left is Dan Backlund with Traditional Vietnamese Water Puppets in a 2007 session in Phoenix, Arizona. Who knows what special event or session will spark the imagination or provide that crucial informational link at the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Photo/Casey Kearns

Join USITT's March Madness! 48th Annual Conference & Stage Expo

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell
USITT President

"Houston" was the first word Astronaut Neil Armstrong spoke when he landed on the moon. Like Astronaut Armstrong, we have had Houston on the tip of our tongues all year with preparations underway for our upcoming USITT 48th Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Even by Texas standards, Houston is *big* -- the largest city in a state that takes big seriously! With 3.4 million citizens, it is the fourth largest city in the USA and, as such, offers many opportunities to make this the *biggest* and most robust USITT Conference & Stage Expo ever!

Rub shoulders with the stars in the fields of theatre and entertainment design and technology. In 2008, USITT is thrilled to present the prestigious USITT Award to Abe Jacob, known as the "Godfather of Theater Sound Design." Tony Award-winning set designer John Lee Beatty, author/costume designer Rebecca Cunningham, the 60-year-old Alley Theatre that still finds itself at the heart of Houston's theatre activity, and many other leaders from our professional ranks will be awarded for their astonishing artistic and technological achievements.

VP Conferences Joe Aldridge, VP Programming/President-Elect Carl Lefko, and VP Special Operations Dan Denhart, together with our remarkable Staff, Conference Committee, Commissions, Contractors, and collaborating organizations, will offer a potpourri of more than 250 sessions, seminars, and meetings including design exhibits, hands-on workshops, Tech Olympics, formal and informal gatherings of interest groups, and an Awards Banquet honoring our celebrities.

Keynote Address and Annual Meeting of the Institute

It all begins with the **Keynote Address and Annual Meeting of the Institute**, the first of three "All-Conference Events." Don't miss scenic and lighting designer, Kevin Rigdon, who will deliver our keynote address. Mr. Rigdon has designed scenery, lighting, and costumes

for more than 345 productions including 50 world premieres. His designs for *Grapes of Wrath* were nominated for Tony Awards in the categories of Best Scenic Design and Best Lighting Design. Along with his active professional design career, Mr. Rigdon is professor and scenic artist at the University of Houston.

At the Annual Meeting of the Institute, USITT Secretary Patricia Dennis will announce newly elected officers and Directors at Large. Interim Treasurer Travis DeCastro will report on the financial health of the organization. Michelle L. Smith will be honored for having served USITT as Membership & Ad Sales Manager for 10 years. This All-Conference event begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 19.

Party time!

Let's meet at the 2008 **Opening Night Party** Wednesday evening where seasoned conventioners get reacquainted and extend a special welcome to newcomers and guests. Please come; a rollicking good time is had by all.

Stage Expo

Don't miss the always-exciting, never predictable Grand Opening of the **2008 USITT Stage Expo** on Thursday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m. and enjoy the trade show produced by Stage Expo Manager Helen Willard. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with exhibitors representing all areas of our industry as they unveil products, old and new. Stage Expo will dazzle and delight professional and student members alike. At the USITT Boutique, you may purchase, fresh off the press, our fourth monograph, *The Designs of Abe Jacob* by Rick Thomas, the Golden Pen-winning *George Tsybin Opera Factory: Building in the Black Void*, and more. As a bonus, several authors will be available at special times to sign books.

Come and learn more about our international offerings at the **All-Conference Reception and Fellows Address** with Past President Leon Brauner and VP International Activities Alexandra Bonds discussing "USITT Internationally: Here, There, and Everywhere." This will be followed by the USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts with examples of their enthralling work accompanying the presentation.

Swag Fest!!!

Following Thursday's All Conference Event, grab a coveted front row seat for the wildly popular **New Products Showcase** and participate as inimitable Emcee Richard Durst and Co. and our exhibitors launch (often literally) new product lines and offer free samples which often creates an audience frenzy. If you are lucky, you might take home some amazing swag! There is always an element of drama associated with this event. For example, last year Elynmarie Kazel, who has for years assisted Emcee Durst as the "Vanna White" of New Products Showcase, was unable to attend the conference. Thus, those attending the event were treated to the opportunity to see interim treasurer Travis DeCastro pay homage to Elynmarie. In order not to disappoint her fans, Travis dressed as Elynmarie. Come and see how the event organizers top that in 2008!



Last but Not Least!

Don't miss the final event of the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo, where we share our experiences and celebrate another successful conference, as we honor the giants in our industry -- **Happy Hour** and the **Awards Banquet**. Meet the celebrities and join in the salute to the best and brightest as USITT presents its coveted Architecture Awards, Golden Pen Award, and *Live Design's* 2008 Rising Star Award, and congratulate our incoming USITT president Carl Lefko as the gavel passes.

As the Conference draws to a close, I hope you find yourself invigorated, excited, and better informed. You will have visited with old friends, made new ones, and met famous and legendary members of our profession. You will find that, as is observed in the movie *Six Degrees of Separation*, "Every person is a new door to a different world."

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Penn State Chapter Hosts High Schoolers

This month:
Pennsylvania State University



On January 25, the USITT Pennsylvania State Student Chapter, USITT@PSU, hosted 53 Pennsylvania high school students for an all-day High School Outreach Education Program. The day was broken into multiple sessions with the morning featuring a safety lecture, a tour of the Playhouse Theatre, and a question and answer panel comprised of faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students from Penn State's School of Theatre.

Lunch was provided by the chapter, and in the afternoon the students participated in two focused sessions, choosing between Props, Stage Management (shown above), Lighting (shown below), Sound, Scenic Painting, or Costumes, all taught by undergraduate students of the Penn State School of Theatre Design & Technology and Stage Management programs.

The event was the culmination of more than a year of effort and organization by the chapter, beginning with funding from a USITT Student Chapter Award. From stuffing envelopes and developing lesson plans to hosting tours and speaking on panels, nearly all active members of the USITT@PSU student chapter were involved.

The student support of this program was a major contribution to the day's success. The feedback USITT@PSU has received from participating high school students and chaperones has been tremendously positive. With this feedback and the suggestions from chapter members and Penn State faculty, USITT@PSU hopes to make this an annual event, continually expanding and improving upon the program for years to come.



Photos/Stephanie Riddle

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Sound Programming to Boom at Conference

Rick Thomas
Sound Commission

The 2008 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas promises to be the most exciting and important celebration of live sound in the performing arts in the history of the Institute. The centerpiece of this celebration will focus on two historic and related events – the awarding of the USITT Distinguished Achievement in Sound Award to John and Helen Meyer, and the release of the first sound monograph in USITT's series featuring prominent American sound designers, *The Designs of Abe Jacob*.

The opportunity to bring three of the most influential figures in the live sound and entertainment industry to USITT will generate an extraordinary "cascade effect" of other influential figures who plan to attend and share in this celebration.

John and Helen Meyer co-founded Meyer Sound Laboratories in 1979 to make high-quality, professional loudspeakers. From the beginning, Meyer Sound has been deeply involved in theatrical sound. The UPA-1, one of the company's earliest products, was originally designed for legendary sound designer Abe Jacob, and arguably revolutionized theatrical audio. Meyer Sound has been one of the first and most consistent supporters of Stage Expo and the Sound Commission.

Sound designer Abe Jacob, considered by many to be the "godfather" of contemporary sound design, got his start in San Francisco mixing sound for such 1960s rock stars as Jimi Hendrix, the Mamas and the Papas, and Peter, Paul, & Mary, and designed the sound system for the Monterey Pop Festival. A legendary sound designer for theatre and opera, a tireless champion of union representation for his fellow artisans, and winner of the 1999 USITT Distinguished Achievement in Sound Award and the 2000 EDDY Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr. Jacob designed the sound for such seminal Broadway shows as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Chorus Line*, *Pippin*, *Chicago*, *Cats*, and *Evita*, virtually creating the position of sound designer in the process.

To celebrate the contributions of Meyer Sound and Mr. Jacob to the live sound industry, the Sound Commission has put together an extraordinary "Day of Celebration" that begins on Friday, March 21 with a book signing event with Mr. Jacob and author Rick Thomas.

Shortly after this event, the Sound Commission will host "An Evening With John and Helen Meyer," to look back on their stunning career, and raise glasses in a champagne toast to these icons of modern sound system design. The next morning (Saturday) will feature a group of prominent professionals in the sound industry – all of whom have ties to Mr. Jacob and Meyer Sound or both – who will take a look back on the evolution of live sound equipment and the design, service, and manufacturing industries that support the shows.

This will be followed by a session with perhaps the most adventurous sound designer on Broadway, who also happens to be the man behind the fabulous sound of *Cirque du Soleil*, Jonathan Deans. Mr. Deans will be followed by another legendary sound designer from the Broadway stage, Steve Kennedy, who is responsible for the sound designs for five of the last 10 shows on Broadway that won the Tony Award for best musical.

Just before Happy Hour some of these industry luminaries will be brought together for a *Tribute to Abe Jacob*, promising some of the stories that couldn't be printed in the book! An hour of socialization follows at the All-Conference Happy Hour, and the whole conference culminates in the Awards Banquet where the Institute will recognize an unprecedented group of sonic artists including this year's Rising Star recipient, Elisheba Ittoop; Robert E. Cohen Award for Sound Achievement recipient, Jason Knox; Harold Burris-Meyer Distinguished Achievement in Sound Award and Architecture Award recipients, John and Helen Meyer; and this year's recipient of the USITT Award, Abe Jacob.

Because of the busy schedules of so many of the prominent professionals related to this celebration, expect some major surprise guests to appear this year, some of whom will be making the trip to USITT for the very first time.

Do not be one of those who would have come "if they only knew!"



Abe Jacob



Helen and John Meyer



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Lighting Commission Highlights Houston Sessions

Todd Studebaker
Lighting Commission

Houston will be an exciting Conference for the Lighting Commission. There are several sessions planned in the light lab. The first is *Designing with LEDs* where the Light Lab will look at the new innovations in LED fixtures and how they can be integrated into the design process. Next Tom Littrel will show how to program moving lights into book shows. Mr. Littrel will examine the design aspect of moving lights and how to implement them in the design process. Steve Shelley will discuss how to better use available time and personnel in completing a focus call.

There will be a session on writing the lighting text book. Craig Wolf leads the list of lighting designers who will discuss how they approach the task of writing a textbook. Some of the panelists are Linda Essig, Mr. Shelley, and Ashley Johnstone.

Another great panel session will be *Are We Giving Our Students What They Need?*, where professionals, educators, and students will discuss openly their wants and needs and the reality of designing lights and being a technician in today's market.

For *Dance Lighting from the Days of the Crazy Horse Paris*, a panel of distinguished lighting designers along with a choreographer and other designers will discuss the concepts of Alain Bernardin, a Parisian entrepreneur and lighting designer who wanted to create a show that was more striking than the traditional striptease.

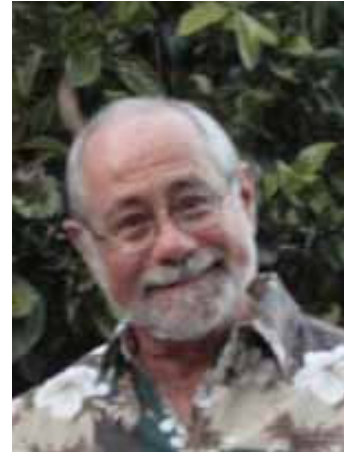
Health & Safety will have a session on transformers, generators, and voltage which will explore not only the voltage in the United States but those of other countries. There will be the second in a three-part series examining international approaches to teaching lighting design. In this session, both British and Korean lighting will be explored with educators from these two countries.

Last, but by no means least, is a panel discussion on *Lighting Houses of Worship/The Mega Church Age*, where a panel of experts will discuss how to effectively incorporate theatrical lighting for multiple needs of music, worship, teaching, and HDTV broadcast.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the Lighting Commission, or helping to shape programming for future conferences, is urged to attend either Commission meeting.

On Friday evening the Commission is holding a reception which provides a great opportunity to unwind and catch up with friends.

The Lighting Commission leadership looks forward to seeing many new and returning members in Houston!



Craig Wolf will be one of several presenters talking about his process for writing a textbook. This is one of many interesting sessions being presented by the Lighting Commission in Houston.

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Costume Plot Database Growing, Needs More Info

Kristina Tollefson

Costume Design & Technology Commission

Most on the Costume Design & Technology Commission have probably been sitting through recent season selection meetings trying to create a balanced season between large cast/costume shows and smaller, more manageable ones. It is impossible, however, to read every script being considered for every season. That was the reason for the creation of the Costume Plot Database (CPD).

The CPD (www.costumeplotdatabase.com) provides casting and costuming requirements for a variety of plays. It gives Commission members the kind of information they need during season selection and saves a great deal of time.

If Costume Design & Technology Commission members pool their efforts and list this information in one location, they can stop duplicating efforts and take advantage of the work of colleagues.

There are currently 33 plays listed in the database. It is only as valuable as the number of submissions. It would be wonderful if each Costume Design & Technology Commission member could make a commitment to submit at least one show from a recent work. Submissions also could be made a requirement for student costume design projects either realized or created in the classroom.

There are two easy ways to submit a play, musical, or opera. Go to the [website](http://www.costumeplotdatabase.com) and click on the "Want to Help?" link. Download either the pdf or Excel version of the submission form. Fill it out and either fax it to 407-823-6446 or e-mail it to kristina@costumeplotdatabase.com.

A second way to submit is to send, via e-mail or fax, dressings lists or other documents from the play with an e-mail explaining any changes the production went through, and student assistants will compile the information in the CPD format.

If each Commission member made a commitment to submit one play each season, all would benefit.

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The page is provided by going to File then Print in your browser

Production Requirements: A Costume Plot Database
Play Title: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Title: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Playwright: Williams, Tennessee Publisher: Signet
Year: 1955 Genre: Drama
Period: 1920s, 1930s Number of Acts/Scenes
Format of text:

Scene Plot:

Contributor's Name:
Contributor's Email:
Subject:
Producing Organization:

Cost Size by Version	Male Actors	Female Actors
Male (Scene Actors)	2	Female (Scene Actors)
Total Male Actors	2	Total Female Actors
Number of Characters as Written	Male Characters	Female Characters
Male (Scene Characters)	2	Female (Scene Characters)
Total Male Characters	2	Total Female Characters
Costume Numbers as Written	Male Costumes	Female Costumes
Male (Scene Costumes)	2	Female (Scene Costumes)
Total Male Costumes	2	Total Female Costumes
Actual Cost Size (if produced)	Male Actors	Female Actors
Male (Scene Actors)	2	Female (Scene Actors)
Total Male Actors	2	Total Female Actors
Costume Numbers (if produced)	Male Costumes	Female Costumes
Male (Scene Costumes)	2	Female (Scene Costumes)
Total Male Costumes	2	Total Female Costumes

Notes on possible reduction/omission of characters/costumes:

Quick Changes:

<http://www.costumeplotdatabase.com> kristina@costumeplotdatabase.com © 2008

Detailed information, about productions such as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, above, can be found online as part of the Costume Plot Database.

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Houston Rodeo Show a Big Barrel of Fun

Janet Harreld

Houston Promotions Coordinator

I was raised in a Midwest farming community, attending 4-H county fairs in muggy June, and the state fair right before returning to school at the end of an always sweltering August. I loved the animal barns -- seeing my baby sister ride an immense sow and being amazed at how many piglets she had scurrying about her; rubbing the soft, stubbly noses of the horses; the baby chicks just hatching in the light bulb incubators; studying the hand milking and trying to figure out just how that cow made milk from grass.

And, of course, there was all the food. The crispy, messy funnel cakes and elephant ears, the tart apple pies with oh so flaky crusts, the Silver Queen sweet corn on the cob dripping with real cream butter, and the incredibly colored cotton candy.

So I thought I knew what to expect when I took my kids to the Houston Livestock and Rodeo. Not even close!

Understand that the Livestock and Rodeo isn't the Texas State Fair. Fair Park in Dallas, where the State Fair is held each autumn, has 277 acres of permanent buildings and attractions that operate year round. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is not to be outdone by the State Fair. It takes place at Reliant Park which is composed of Reliant Center, the Astrodome, Reliant Arena and the amazing Reliant Stadium.

Almost as amazing, it will be concluding just when the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo is in town.

In Reliant Center there are any number of small animal exhibits such as livestock birthing and a petting zoo, as well as trade show type booths. Reliant Center during the show is a child's dream come true and a lot cleaner than having your own barnyard. My then two-year-old couldn't get to each exhibit fast enough, and then couldn't bear to be torn away. Just outside Reliant Center are the pig races. Truly a sight not to be missed.

Reliant Arena is filled with larger animals like llamas, goats, cows, and horses, and horses, and more horses. The Arena is also the place to see the donkey and mule pulls. The animals in the pulls run the size spectrum from no taller than my knee pulling an adult human, to the size of a quarter horse pulling almost one ton of dead weight. The kids and I could've spent

At the same time the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo are in town, events for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be held in Reliant Stadium, the world's first retractable-roofed NFL stadium.

Photo/Courtesy Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau

the afternoon being amazed by these incredible creatures.

For those not particularly interested in farm and ranch animals, there is a wine competition. Yes, you read it right. Last year, the Fifth Annual International Wine Competition featured 1,969 wines from 606 wineries and 16 countries, all vying for the prestigious title of Grand Champion Best of Show. Weird, especially for a livestock show and rodeo.

In barracks-style tents all over the grounds are the specialty foods. You can purchase any variety of barbeque (or BBQ) in beef, pork, or chicken and any sort of side that might (or might not) be appropriate. There's sausage with onions and peppers and all manner of Tex Mex food. You must find the "Deep Fried Anything" stand. They will batter and deep fry items such as ice cream, Oreos, Twinkies, and candy bars. Sorry, I just couldn't do it.

Between the Arena and the Stadium are the carnival rides. Although there is nothing particularly unusual or unique here, it does have an almost endless number of hair raising choices.

The Rodeo is held daily inside Reliant Stadium. On weekdays, the Rodeo begins in the very early evening while on weekends, it begins about 2 p.m. Seating is sold by section, not individual seat, and is part of the regular admission price which starts at \$16.50. (The higher the admission price, the closer to the floor in the Stadium you get to sit.) The Rodeo is a chocked full event including: bareback riding, barrel racing, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, steer-wrestling, team roping, and tie-down roping. At the 2007 Show, champion men and women competed for a total rodeo purse of \$1.275 million. In 2008, contestants will be riding and roping for a total purse of more than \$1.3 million.

The odd thing about the Houston Rodeo is that the musical acts perform right in the middle of everything. Artists like Fergie, Brooks and Dunn, John Fogarty, Faith Hill, and John Legend take center stage for a 30 to 45 minute concert while the cowboys and girls go off to catch their breath and put ice on their bruises. After the final rodeo event, there is the spectacular indoor fireworks show (we can't have fireworks for the Rodeo rained out!).

Not specifically part of the daily rodeo, but held in Reliant stadium are the Calf Scramble and the Chuck Wagon Races. In an instant, 14 calves race away from 28 young people who are armed with only a rope halter. With kids and calves scattered about and darting in every direction across the Reliant Stadium floor, the Calf Scramble becomes one of the most chaotic, unscripted events of Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The Chuck Wagon Race harkens back to the days of trail drives. When the trail became tedious, the boredom was relieved by racing the unlikely chuck wagon with other teams on the trail. The last to arrive at the finish was the first to pay for a round at the town saloon. Although paying the bar tab is no longer the penalty, the competition is still just as fierce.

On a serious note, The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has provided over \$9 million in scholarships for academically-qualified but financially needy Texas students. The best part of the scholarship is that the recipients aren't restricted to typical agriculture and husbandry type majors; students can major in anything!

There is even an art contest for high school seniors whose juried work can be viewed at Reliant Center. These kids, too, are eligible for scholarships. So although just going to the Rodeo assures a good time, it also supports a terrific educational cause.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will enjoy its final days during the 48th Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Houston. You can take the light rail from downtown and be dropped immediately in front of the main entrance to Reliant Park -- just in case you'd like to take a look at one of the events Houston truly takes to heart.

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Attendees enjoy conversation and refreshments at Opening Night at the 2007 Conference. Each year, the event is made even more inviting by the Opening Night sponsors.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Sponsors Add Zip to Conference Week!

Michelle Smith
Membership & Ad Sales Manager

USITT will offer attendees of the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston a variety of events and services thanks to generous sponsor support.

On Wednesday evening, March 19, join the fun at **Opening Night** in the Hilton-Lanier Ballroom. Reconnect with old friends and make new acquaintances at this casual reception that kicks off the Conference week. Tasty hors d'oeuvres will be served compliments of our sponsors: [A V Pro, Inc.](#); [Electronic Theatre Controls \(ETC\)](#); [Martin Professional, Inc.](#); [SECOA](#); and [Texas Scenic Company](#).

Interested in theatre architecture? Check out the **Walking Tour of the Houston Theatre District** on Wednesday, March 19 from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.* Participants will go backstage at several Houston Theatre District Venues including the Alley Theatre. Bus transportation to the theatre district is sponsored by [Morris Architects](#).

Conference attendees who need to check e-mail or surf the web can make use of the **Cyber Cafés** located throughout Stage Expo. The cafés, kiosks outfitted with computers and internet access, are available for use anytime Stage Expo is open. Cafés are available thanks to sponsors: [City Theatrical, Inc.](#); [IATSE Local 1](#); [Live Design Magazine/LDI Show](#); [Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.](#); and [Staging Concepts, Inc.](#)

Please join us in thanking the sponsors of these events and services for their generous financial support. To learn more about USITT's sponsorship program, contact Membership & Ad Sales Manager Michelle L. Smith at the USITT office at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or michelle@office.usitt.org.

**Tour signup begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday at message boards. Must be present to sign up.*

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The Russian national exhibit 2007 Prague Quadrennial was unusual in its creation and execution. Daniela Korogodsky will discuss the design and exhibit at a special session at USITT's 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Photo/Sandy Bonds

International Sessions Offer Global Perspectives

Sandy Bonds
VP International Activities

The theme for the Conference events planned by the International Committee focuses on the Prague Quadrennial 2007. Three sessions will feature the award-winning exhibits from Russia, Mexico, and Portugal.

Russia received the highest honor of the Golden Triga in 2007. Danila Korogodsky, a native of Russia and professor of stage design at California State University Long Beach, will present his interpretation of the unique exhibit designed by Dmitry Krymov.

At the 12:15 p.m. Saturday session he will profile the designers included within the context of contemporary design in Russia. Contrary to the often-elegant presentations in the National stands, the Russian exhibit was a recreation of an abandoned warehouse, complete with dripping water on the floor. Galoshes were provided for those who ventured in to see the set models precariously balanced on an odd assortment of debris including table china, packing boxes, chairs, and a tuba. Mr. Korogodsky also will describe his own company in St. Petersburg and its innovative performances in a distinctive space.

The Gold Medal for Costume Design was awarded to all of the costume designers represented in the Mexican National Exhibit. Of those honored, Eloise Kazan will be representing Mexico at the Conference on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in a session co-sponsored with the Costume Design & Technology Commission. She will present a selection of her portfolio and talk about her approach to the design of costumes as a narrative tool. Ms. Kazan has designed sets and costumes for theatre, dance, opera, and film in the United Kingdom, Croatia, and Mexico. She also will discuss the unique qualities of costume design in Mexico, which is gaining world-wide attention in international exhibitions.

João Mendes Ribeiro of Portugal received the Gold Medal for Scene Design. The jury commended his work as an architect who truly understands theatrical space. His designs will be shown by Alexandra Pinho, the Director of the Art Department at the Directorate-General for the Arts in the Ministry of Culture in Lisbon, Portugal on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. She coordinated the exhibit at the PQ and is currently preparing their presentation for the Biennale of Architecture in Venice.

George Tsypin, author of the 2008 USITT Golden Pen Award-winning book, will be talking about his designs which are featured in the USITT PQ USA 2007 exhibit at the national exhibition at Stage Expo on Friday at 2 p.m.

USITT is hosting the Technology Commission of OISTAT in Houston, and several of these

international visitors will form a panel to discuss *Technical Practice in World Theatre* on Friday at 12:15 p.m. Though many of the production challenges for live performance are similar throughout the world, specific local and national conditions and regulations confront practitioners of the technical disciplines. Technical directors and theatre consultants from OISTAT will discuss their experiences with these challenges and will offer their views as to how the solutions might apply to productions everywhere.

Participants in the sound activities at the 2007 Prague Quadrennial will gather to share their stories and experiences from the world's most extraordinary exhibition of stage design. Steven Brown, associate head of the OISTAT Sound Working Group and producer of the many exciting sound activities at the PQ, and Eileen Smitheimer, professor of lighting and sound at the University of Delaware, and one of Mr. Brown's primary assistants at the PQ, will chair this session noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

The Lighting Commission is continuing its three-part series on an examination of international approaches to the teaching of lighting design on Saturday at 12:15 p.m. This year's speakers are Jakyung Seo from Korea, who has designed professionally in South Korea, Japan, and the United States, and Nick Morgan, senior lecturer in lighting design from the Central School of Speech and Drama in Britain.

Costumes of India's classical dance will be offered by the Costume Design & Technology Commission on Wednesday at 6 p.m. Deepskha Chatterjee and Rajeswari Soundararajan will explain how the visual iconography in these extraordinary and colorful costumes presents the cultural and religious values of the country.

In addition to these outstanding international guests, programming will be provided by USITT members traveling overseas. John Hofland, associate professor at Gonzaga University in Washington, has taught and designed in the Ukraine. In the annual International Resources and Opportunities session on Wednesday at noon, he will show the process of training costumers and craftpersons at the Odessa Artistic Theatrical College. He will bring examples of the students' work in drawing, sewing, and replicating historical fabrics.

In another session co-sponsored by the Costume Design & Technology Commission on Wednesday at 2 p.m., a panel of London program directors will present their approaches for launching and sustaining a study abroad program in this city with unparalleled resources for students of costuming. Linda Pisano, Loyce Arthur, Gretel Geist, Nancy Hills, and LeLonnie Lehman will describe the unique features of each of their programs in this session that will be valuable for both teachers and students.

On Friday at 10 a.m., the spotlight will be on students who attended the PQ 2007 and participated in the myriad of Scenofest activities. Emily Gill attended a Fashion and Design Workshop, Carl Walling will present his insights from the lectures and National Day presentations, and Ingrid Schultz will describe the process of creating "Labcoats on Clouds" as a part of the Design as Performance aspect of the Scenofest. Richard Finkelstein will give his photographic overview of the Scenofest and related events. In a separate session on Saturday at 10 a.m., Michael Ramsaur will discuss lighting design events highlighted during the Scenofest and PQ 2007.

At Stage Expo, all three of the USITT PQ USA 2007 exhibits will be available for perusal. The National Exhibit features 95 designers and 120 productions representing a cross-section of outstanding scenery, lighting, costume, and sound design in the United States in the last four years. Gallery talks led by the curators will be offered on Thursday at 11 a.m. and Friday at 2 and 3 p.m. during Stage Expo Only times.

The Student Exhibit includes designed boxes from 16 schools and a photo-montage and 3D walls of props and costumes from numerous other design programs. Students will offer their five-minute Design as Performance productions during the Stage Expo times as well. The Architecture Exhibit showcases 17 designs of theatres for training programs, including resident companies, university theatres, and regional theatres with training programs.

In addition to the PQ Exhibits, some of the international guests will bring examples of their work to display, and the PQ organizers will send an exhibition of photographs from the PQ and Scenofest performances and activities.

The intercontinental scope of USITT's activities and networking will be well-represented in Houston. For those interested in getting more involved in USITT's international outreach, there will be a meeting of the International Committee on Thursday at 4:45 p.m.. A meeting to discuss plans for the USITT USA exhibit, which will travel to the Prague Quadrennial in 2011, will be held on Friday at 12:15 p.m.



Shown performing "Labcoats on Clouds." at Scenofest in 2007 are, from left, Jason Knox, Onur Yacigizil, Christy Jacobs (on top), Ingrid Shults, and Ron Shoemaker.

Photo/Laura Arns

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Stage Expo 2008 Reaching For a Sell Out!

Helen Willard
Stage Expo Sales Manager

They say that everything is bigger in Texas, and that is certainly true of Stage Expo 2008 in Houston. Last year's Phoenix show set a record with 27,700 square feet of exhibit space, while Stage Expo 2008 will have nearly 30,000 square feet of booths and tables. With one month until the Conference, just two booths remain to be sold. Several additional booths were squeezed into the exhibit hall, and they went like hot tamales. The cluster of eight commercial table spaces is full, and more than 50 colleges, universities, and theatre companies have reserved non-commercial table spaces to promote their programs.

For more information about Stage Expo 2008 exhibitors, visit the [Stage Expo Webpage](#) to see the Stage Expo layout and a current list of exhibitors. Click on a highlighted booth or table to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' websites so you can learn more about their products and services prior to the show.

There will be a plethora of special exhibits at Stage Expo, including the US Exhibits for PQ 2007 and Design Expo 2008. The annual Architecture Awards exhibit will be joined by the 2008 Student Design Competition, plus a display of architectural model boxes. Regional exhibits will showcase the Houston Ballet, featuring the work of Desmond Heeley, Tom Boyd, and Kristian Fredrickson, and attendees are sure to enjoy highlights from the Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts. The International Committee will sponsor an exhibit of work by PQ 2007 Gold Medal Award winners, featuring Eloise Kazan, representing all of the costume designers of Mexico, who shared the Gold Medal for Costume Design.

Recent Stage Expo openings have been memorable, thanks to the Native Trails Dance Troupe in Phoenix, the Churchill Downs bugler in Louisville, Bandaloni, the one-man band who entertained us in Toronto, Mariachi Los Angeles in Long Beach, Sesame Street Live in Minneapolis, and the second-line band who led us into the New Orleans Superdome.

Be sure to be at the Stage Expo Opening on Thursday, March 20 at 9:30 a.m. to see what the special entertainment will be this year.

Crowds will again gather at Stage Expo when the 2008 version kicks off in Houston on March 20, 2008. Each year, Stage Expo opens with special surprise entertainment, so those who will be in Houston are encouraged to be on hand to see what is planned.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

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- Leon Brauner
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2007-2010

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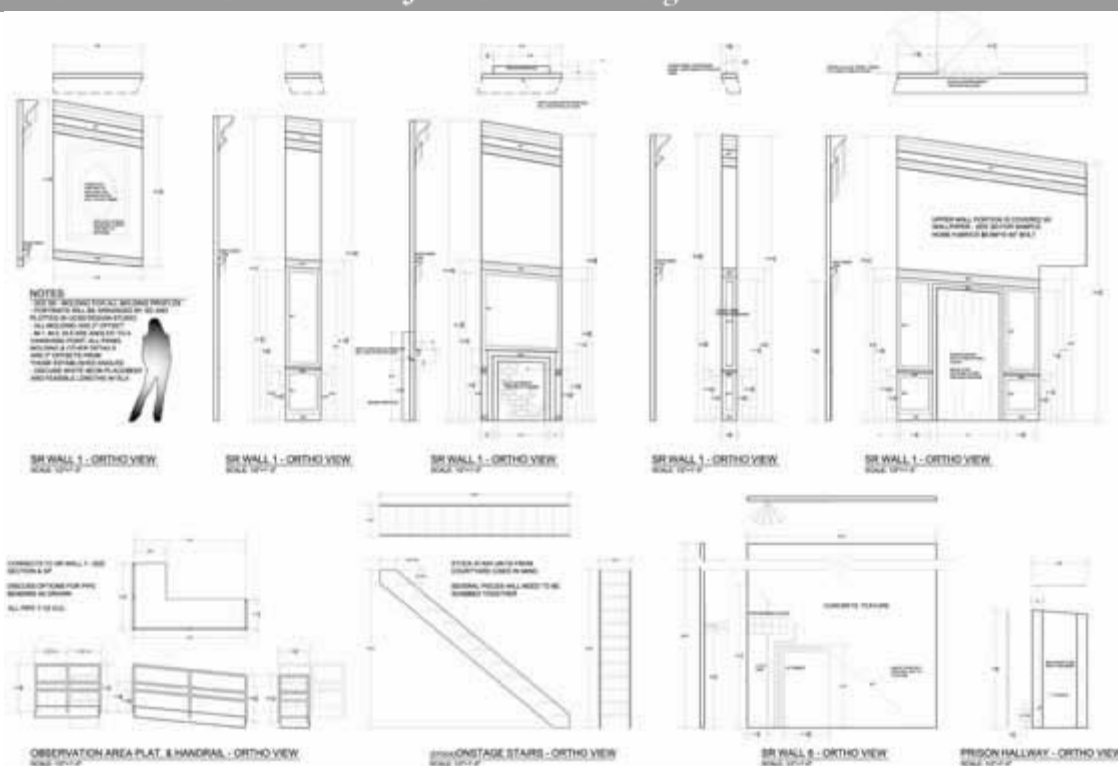
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The online submission process for the 2008 USITT Awards for Young Designers and Technicians in the Performing Arts allowed jury members to see a wide variety of images used to present the work. Above, Steven Kemp, winner of the USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand, presents a sample of wall evaluations for *The Physicists*.



At left is an image from *Rhinoceros*, part of the portfolio submitted for consideration by Ben Pilat, who will receive the USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Barbizon

This costume design sketch, right, for *Narcissa*, was created by Kevin Thacker, USITT Costume Design & Technology Award sponsored by Zelma H.



Weisfeld winner.

Collin Ranney created the look, below, for *City of Angels* which helped him earn the USITT W. Oren Parker Scene Design Award sponsored by Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.

Images From the 2008 Young Designer Award Winners



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