

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



Floating paper houses were just one of the extremely dramatic sights for those who participated in the OISTAT program held in Taipei, Taiwan to explore the traditions and practices of the Taoist Ghost Parades. A more complete report, including impressions of three USITT members who participated, is our Last Word for October. USITT is the United States centre for OISTAT, the International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians.

Francis Shen, one of the Taipei costume designers taking part in the workshop, captured this image.

home **USITT**

# News & Notices

[Next Story](#)[▷ USITT](#) [▷ Calendar](#) [▷ JobsUSITT](#) [▷ Sightlines](#)**October 2008****News & Notices**

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

**News From:**

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

**Commissions**

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

**Conference & Stage Expo**

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

**For the Record**

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## USITT to Continue Electronic Elections in 2009

**Patricia Dennis**  
*USITT Secretary*

Because of the success of online voting in 2008, USITT is embarking upon the 2009 election cycle with the intent of again utilizing the secure electronic process. With the use of e-balloting, USITT saw numbers of voters increase a dramatic 21 percent over the return of paper ballots in the past.

The vast majority of members found the process of voting electronically easy and accessible. Votenet, the e-balloting provider, made paper ballots available for members who did not vote electronically.

The USITT Nominations Committee has prepared a slate for the 2009 election cycle. John Uthoff, as Immediate Past President, was chair of the Nominations Committee that prepared the slate appearing below. He and the committee diligently sought input from the membership at large, Commissioners, Regional Sections, Conference Committee, and Directors at Large. Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, who became Immediate Past President in July 2008, now chairs the committee.

The Nominations Committee presents the following preliminary slate for the 2009 election.

<b>Office</b>	<b>Nominee(s)</b>
<b>President-elect</b>	Joe D. Aldridge William Teague
<b>Secretary</b>	Patricia Dennis
<b>Vice-President for International Activities</b>	Alexandra B. Bonds
<b>Vice-President for Commissions</b>	Kim E. Williamson
<b>Vice-President for Conferences</b>	Dawn Larkey David Will

*Officers elected will serve two-year terms starting July 1, 2009.*



USITT is again planning to work with VoteNet to provide electronic and paper balloting for its election. VoteNet allows secure online voting for USITT members.

**Directors at Large** (*six to be elected*)

Bill Browning	Raymond Kent
Jonathon Darling	William Kenyon
Linda Essig	Martha Marking
Jack Feivou	Brian Reed
Mitch Hefter	Kim Scott
Rafael Jaen	Stirling Shelton

*Those elected Directors at Large will serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2009.*

The slate may be amended by following the By-Laws that state: "Additional nominations for each elective office may be presented by petition, supported by no fewer than 50 signatures verified as those of members in good standing in the Corporation. Additional nominations shall be accompanied by written approval of the nominee and a brief biographical description."

Petitions for additional nominations for each elective office may be conducted electronically for candidates who wish to be included on the ballot. To file an e-mail petition, the process is to:

- Confirm the willingness of the individual to stand for election;
- Collect the names of at least 50 current USITT members who have agreed to support the nomination; and
- Send an e-mail by October 15 to Nominations Committee Chair Sylvia Hillyard Pannell at [sylvia\\_hillyard\\_pannell@usitt.org](mailto:sylvia_hillyard_pannell@usitt.org).

The e-mail must contain the name and brief biography of the nominee as well as names and e-mail addresses of all of those members who signed the petition in support of the nomination.

Once the electronic petition is received, the membership of those who endorse the nomination will be verified and the support of each signer will be confirmed. If all is in order, the name will be added to the slate.

The Nominations Committee hopes that this option will allow the membership a convenient process for participation and involvement. Petitions may still be filed on paper and mailed to Ms. Pannell at USITT, 315 South Crouse Avenue, Suite 200, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Any member with questions may also e-mail USITT Secretary Pat Dennis at [pat\\_dennis@usitt.org](mailto:pat_dennis@usitt.org) or Nominations Committee Chair Pannell at [sylvia\\_hillyard\\_pannell@usitt.org](mailto:sylvia_hillyard_pannell@usitt.org).

USITT's officers and Directors at Large shape the future of the organization; it is critical that all members participate in the election process. By doing so, members invest in the future of the Institute.

USITT members will soon receive additional information about

the election process as well as instructions for those members who would prefer not to cast votes electronically.

[To Top](#) 

home **USITT**

# Announcements

[Next Story](#)[▷ USITT](#) [▷ Calendar](#) [▷ JobsUSITT](#) [▷ Sightlines](#)**October 2008****News & Notices**

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

**News From:**

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

**Commissions**

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

**Conference & Stage Expo**

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

**For the Record**

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

**Nominate Now for Rising Star Award**

Nominations are open through October 17 for USITT's 2009 Rising Star Award, sponsored and created by LDI2008/Live Design. Online nominations may be made [here](#). The Rising Star Award recognizes young professionals in the first four years of their careers for artistic excellence in the areas of lighting, sound, scenic, and projection design or the convergence of design disciplines. A recipient must be in the first four years of professional (non-academic) work following the completion of his or her highest degree.

USITT members should nominate young professionals for this award. Nominees will be contacted by USITT and asked to electronically supply a professional resume, two letters of support, an application, and no more than eight representative examples of their work. Complete nomination information, including past winners, is available [here](#).

The 2009 Rising Star Award winner will receive \$1,000, a one-year individual membership to USITT, and a complimentary registration and banquet ticket to the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Contact the USITT Office at 800-938-7488 ext. 101 or [info@office.usitt.org](mailto:info@office.usitt.org) for assistance.

[To Top ↑](#)**Deadline for Architecture Awards**

November 7 is the deadline to submit an entry for the USITT Architecture Awards for 2009. Submission information, requirements, and entry forms are available [here](#), from [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org) or by contacting the USITT office at 800-938-7488, ext. 101 or [info@office.usitt.org](mailto:info@office.usitt.org).


The Architecture Awards program is celebrating its 16th year in bringing public and professional recognition to architecture design of theatre projects. The program is open to any new construction or renovation completed since January 1, 1998. Architects practicing anywhere within the seven continents may enter one or more submissions. The USITT Architecture Awards jury will evaluate projects on creativity, contextual resonance, functional operation, exploration of new technologies, and community contribution.

[To Top ↑](#)

**This month:**  
 Rising Star Nominations  
 Open  
 Architecture Awards  
 Deadline  
 USITT at LDI  
 ESTA Awards

### **USITT at LDI**

For those who will be in Las Vegas, Nevada for LDI, please stop at the USITT booth for a chance to win a free registration to the 2009 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo. USITT staff and members can gather at booth 429 from October 25 to 27.

[To Top](#) 

### **Rock Our World Finalists**

ESTA (Entertainment Services and Technology Association) has announced the finalists in the first Rock Our World Awards to be presented at the ESTA Annual Dinner & Ceremony at LDI 2008.

The awards were created to honor groundbreaking achievements by ESTA members and to acknowledge the genius of both the creator of technology and the designer or integrator who applies the technology in a real world environment. With more than 30 nominations, a screening panel narrowed the field to nine.

The finalists are:

- Aqua Visual FX Water Screen, Pyrotek Special Effects, Inc.
- AIR Roof System, Total Structures, Inc.
- STC Alloy Chain, SECOA
- Jands Vista PC as used in the Foxwoods MGM Resort Casino, A.C. Lighting Inc.
- Versa RAY Screen at the 15th Asian Games, Element Labs Inc.
- Pharos LPC X on the Heathrow "Cloud" Carallon Limited
- Die Soldaten, Alcone Company, Barbizon Electric, IATSE Local One, J&M Special Effects, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain Productions Inc., Production Resource Group, Rose Brand, Sapsis Rigging, Inc., and Steeldeck, Inc.
- Tacoma Dome Lighting Grid System, Athletic & Performance Rigging (a division of Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.), Atlanta Rigging Systems, Entertainment Structures Group (a division of Steven Schaefer Associates, Inc.), and Xtreme Structures & Fabrication
- Harrah's Atlantic City Waterfront Tower, Philips Solid-State Lighting Solutions, Production Resource Group, Tim Hunter Design

The winners are selected by a panel of industry judges and will be announced at the ESTA Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony October 24 at Harrah's Las Vegas during LDI 2008. To make a reservation [click here](#).

[To Top](#) 





# News & Notices

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

**October 2008**

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



Bernie Works shares a light-hearted moment with Chris Brown, the winner of the Frederick Burke Golden Hammer Award, one of 10 Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts before the awards ceremony at the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

## Seek Nominations Now For 2009 Young Designer Awards

Outstanding young professionals who wish to be considered for USITT's prestigious Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts (YD&T) should be collecting portfolios and be prepared when the 2009 awards cycle begins in early October.

For the past two years, the USITT YD&T nominations process has been conducted online. This allows those who nominate students for an award to do so online, and lets those nominated transfer information, portfolios, and materials electronically.

USITT's Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts provide a monetary prize and recognition to 10 young, talented professionals each year. This level of commitment is made possible by the financial support of the program's sponsors including KM Fabrics, Inc.; Robert E. Cohen; Barbizon Lighting Company; Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications, and Supplies; Zelma H. Weisfeld; Bernhard R. Works; Kryolan; Clear-Com Intercom Systems; Stage Technology; and Stage Decoration and Supplies, Inc.

Students should be recent graduates or be completing their college or university education. Specific awards are given to undergraduates or graduate students in areas ranging from lighting, to sound, to scene design, make-up, stage management,

and technical direction.

Beginning October 6, award nominees can submit applications through the USITT website. Each submission will require an entry fee and specific materials which may include photographs, paperwork, drawings, and renderings. All nominees and nominators must be current USITT members. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit [www.usitt.org/activities/awards/YDTAward.html](http://www.usitt.org/activities/awards/YDTAward.html) for more information.

The program is highlighted in brochures which are being mailed to all current USITT organizational and student members. All educational institutions are being encouraged to nominate individuals who should be considered for this great opportunity for students to receive recognition and financial support.

All registrations must be received by 12 p.m. E.S.T. on November 10, 2008. The deadline for submissions is November 17.

Award winners are announced in early 2009 and are honored at a private event with sponsors and adjudicators. Winners also will be publicly acknowledged on Thursday evening as part of USITT's 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

[To Top](#) 



home **USITT**

# News & Notices

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

**October 2008****News & Notices**

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

**News From:**

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

**Commissions**

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

**Conference & Stage Expo**

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

**For the Record**

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



Lori Hartenhoff of Northern Illinois University demonstrates a Shibori dyeing technique as part of the 2008 USITT Costume Symposium at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Participants had an intensive three-day experience working with fabrics.

Photos/ Susan Kiesau

## Symposium Brims with Fabric Techniques, Tours

**Donna Meester***Costume Design & Technology Commission*

Chapel Hill, North Carolina was the site July 30 through August 2 for the 2008 USITT Costume Symposium. Participants enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and learned various fabric modification techniques. The days were chock full of interesting and informative workshops, as well as a jam packed field trip day. Participants included freelance costume designers, technicians, and academicians from across the country (and Canada).

Colleen Muscha helped kick off the event with a presentation of the travel group she organized and led through England, France, and Italy. The symposium participants were then divided into small groups or what would be their "family" for the next few days and were led on a tour of the facility. All were promised they would not be quizzed; it didn't matter, many managed to continually get lost anyway. This was true of the tours around campus, as well.

Joshua Bond, costume technician at the University of Virginia, set the tone by

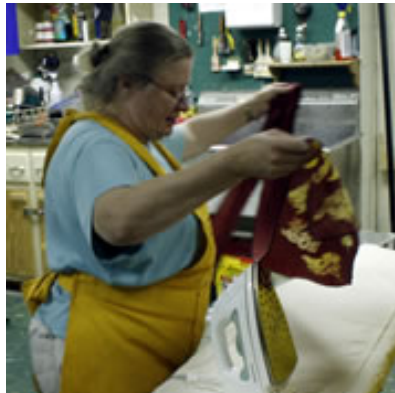


saying, "These types of master classes are so wonderful. In just a couple of days you not only see the techniques and come away with beautiful samples, but gain an insight to what is being taught at other universities. I think that this is vitally important to us as theater artists not only to learn new skills but to connect with the research and researchers so that we do not have to reinvent the wheel every time."



The workshops began Thursday morning. Jeff Lieder introduced a new technique of doing silk screen. On this first day, participants found images to print and prepared the screens. While the first group was "screening," Lori Hartenhoff explained the various ways of doing Shibori dyeing before guiding another group through the preparation of Shibori silk scarves. Colleen Muscha taught her group how to prepare and begin processing the Devoree (burn-out) technique, while Janet Bloor entertained and enlightened her first group with her own personal style of "Rubberama" or "Fun with Bathtub Caulking." Each group spent two hours with an instructor before rotating to the next.

While the projects from day one were processing, hosts Judy Adamson and Bobbi Owen played tour guides to the group. The day began with a bus ride to Cary, North Carolina where participants toured the facilities of TC2. This company is known for its innovative ways to streamline the production process in the clothing industry. The group was then treated to an exciting tour of Cotton, Inc. Participants were led through the entire process of developing a cotton garment -- from receiving the bale of cotton to designing and creating the fabric. The field trip day concluded with a jaunt to Raleigh to visit the North Carolina State College of Textiles.




Saturday was the day of truth! The silk screens were ready to print, the Shibori scarves were ready to reveal themselves, the Devoree was developed, and the rubber was now more than bathtub caulking. Perhaps Claudia Stephens, costume designer at SMU, summed up this learning experience best. "The teaching style of this group of professionals was specific in regards to materials, processes and end results; however, they also created a freeing atmosphere of creativity,



encouraging experimentation and failure. The result was fun yet demanding, precise but creative." Giva Taylo, costume shop supervisor at SMU, concurred, adding, "I have come back to SMU and told everyone how wonderful the USITT Symposium was. I show our samples to everyone whose arm I can twist for a minute. I left feeling refreshed and invigorated."

"What can I say? We laughed, we cried, we dyed. I guess in hindsight, it was a complete learning experience, from the dorms (I learned I never want to stay in one again.) to the master teachers, who all had the patience of Job. Oh, and my suitcase still smells a little like caulk!" Ginny West (costume design at Franklin and Marshall) declared.

What seemed like summer camp concluded with everyone sharing their projects and discoveries and saying "Goodbye, see you in Cincinnati!" Thanks to hosts Ms. Adamson and Ms. Owen, along with other members of the University of North Carolina faculty. Great appreciation goes to session assistants Randy Handley, Amy Page, Jade Bettin, and Edith Carnley as well as Jan Chambers, who made sure everyone was fed well.

[To Top](#) 



# Member Benefits

[Next Story](#)[▷ USITT](#) [▷ Calendar](#) [▷ JobsUSITT](#) [▷ Sightlines](#)**October 2008**

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Great Discounts on Equipment & Supplies

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

### Limelight Productions, Inc.

USITT members can receive discounts on a variety of items related to lighting, scenery, and/or make-up. Specials change each month.

To view selection, [click here](#). Or contact Limelight directly at 800-243-4950 or [cbrouker@limelightproductions.com](mailto:cbrouker@limelightproductions.com) and identify yourself as a USITT member.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of member discounts. For instructions on accessing a discount, select the item of interest and enter user name (USITT member number) and password (last name) at the prompt.

For 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](mailto:michelle@office.usitt.org).

[To Top](#) ↑

Limelight Productions offers discounts to USITT members. Discounts may vary each month.

[Next Page](#) →

News from:



# Around the Institute

[Next Story](#)
[▷ USITT](#) [▷ Calendar](#) [▷ JobsUSITT](#) [▷ Sightlines](#)

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Tipton Named MacArthur Fellow

Warmest congratulations to Jennifer Tipton on her latest honor, being named a 2008 MacArthur Fellow from the The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Sometimes called the “genius” awards, each fellowship comes with a stipend of \$500,000 to the recipient, paid out in equal quarterly installments over five years.. Ms. Tipton was on the PQ Steering Committee which won the Prague Quadrennial Golden Triga award and the USITT Award in 1990. She was recognized individually with the USITT Award in 2002.

The MacArthur Foundation, in announcing the honor said “Jennifer Tipton is an internationally recognized lighting designer whose distinctive designs have redefined the relationship between lighting and performance.”

[To Top](#) ↑

## Lefko Gives Keynote

USITT President Carl Lefko presented the Keynote for an enthusiastic audience at the Chesapeake Regional Section's recent meeting and Stage Expo at Towson Univeristy in Maryland. Membership & Ad Sales Manager Michelle Smith, from USITT's National Office, also participated, including making sure those in attendance had information about the benefits of belonging to the Institute.



Photo/R. Finkelstein

A full report of the event is expected in the November issue of Sightlines.

[To Top](#) ↑

## Launches Director-Designer Showcase

### This month:

Jennifer Tipton

President at Chesapeake

Opera America

Bill Groener

Richard Pilbrow

Rob Shakespeare



OPERA America, the national service organization for opera, announces a bi-annual Director-Designer Showcase under the auspices of The Opera Fund. The Showcase will offer direct benefits to promising stage directors and designers seeking to break into the world of opera. It is intended to bring new talent to the forefront, and connect promising directors and designers with those who are in a position to engage them.

For more information, [click here](#).

The Showcase is open to emerging opera/theater artists regardless of their membership status with OPERA America.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **Groener Joins Tim Hunter Design**

Tim Hunter Design recently announced that **Bill Groener** will join the firm as president and chief operating officer. Mr. Groener is former vice president/general manager of Production Resource Group.

Early in his career, he worked primarily in design and production in both regional and academic theatre. After working as an assistant professor at Williams College, he joined the Walt Disney Company as a lighting designer for theme park projects. After Disney, he moved away from design and production and toward the manufacturing side, primarily with Strand Lighting where he eventually worked as executive vice president/general manager. For the past 14 years, he worked with first Barbizon and later PRG.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **Broadway Design First to Use Systems**

USITT Fellow **Richard Pilbrow**'s new lighting design for *A Tale Of Two Cities* is the first Broadway production to integrate Strand Lighting's Light Palette VL (with Universal Attribute Control) with Cast Lighting's WYSIWYG and West Side Systems' Virtual Magic Sheet for what is being called a more dynamic, intuitive and designer-friendly graphic representation of the output and orientation of the lighting rig. The show premiered September 18 at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre.

Mr. Pilbrow configured a video display to indicate, graphically and in real time, levels and positions of lights. He cued the show (with over 1,300 control channels of moving and conventional fixtures, LED's, fiber-optics, special effects and over 80 radio-controlled battery-powered instruments) without any other display from the lighting console, working alongside the actors as they rehearsed onstage.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **Light Totem in Indiana**



Congratulations to **Robert Shakespeare** of Indiana University whose "Light Totem" is about to celebrate its own anniversary, lighting up the sky at the IU Art Museum building. The 70-foot freestanding tower on the museum lawn includes LEDs reflecting off the aluminum tower, capped by a 208 million candle-power searchlight. Mr. Shakespeare can program the totem to perform choreographed sequences of up to 25 minutes, and has been drawing people who stand in awe as the totem lights the night.

It uses about 3,000 watts of energy compared to the 30,000 to 40,000 which would be needed for more traditional light sources. Duke Energy is the exclusive corporate sponsor of the project.

[To Top](#) 

News from:



# Contributing Members

[Next Story](#)
[▷ USITT](#) [▷ Calendar](#) [▷ JobsUSITT](#) [▷ Sightlines](#)

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

### Introduces New DMX Loop

**GAMPRODUCTS, INC.**, Los Angeles, California has introduced a new addition to the SX4 family of special effects devices. The SX4 is designed to be mounted onto a Source Four ellipsoidal spotlight to convert the unit into an effects projector. Currently there are four effects trays and GAM has recently added one more, a DMX controlled Loop Tray. All of the trays are interchangeable in the SX4 unit. With five interchangeable effects trays, the SX4 allows users to choose a four or six gobo changer, color changer, effects loops, or discs.

The new DMX Loop Tray also has built in programs for stand-alone operation. Learn more about the new DMX Loop Tray online at [www.gamonline.com](http://www.gamonline.com). For more information, contact GAMPRODUCTS, INC., 4975 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90019; 323-935-4975; fax 323-935-2002.

[To Top ↑](#)

### CSL Launches Online Seminars

**Creative Stage Lighting** recently launched a series of online seminars for lighting professionals. The seminars will address a variety of topics including new technologies, products, applications, and how stage lighting and theatrical professionals can grow their careers.

Richard Cadena, editor of *Projection Lights & Staging News* and a 22-year veteran of the lighting industry, kicked off the series on September 18. Mr. Cadena spoke about how the live event industry is changing and how working and aspiring entertainment professionals can best prepare and take advantage of this change.

Upcoming events will be listed at Creative Stage Lighting's website. The online seminars are free and open to the public. For more information about current and future online seminars, visit [creativestagelighting.com/events](http://creativestagelighting.com/events).

[To Top ↑](#)

### Reed Joins Rose Brand

**This month:**  
GAMPRODUCTS

CSL

Rose Brand

City Theatrical

ETC

J.R. Clancy

Michael P. Reed has joined **Rose Brand** as project manager. His experience in regional theatre includes the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, Plays in the Park, the Whole Theatre in Montclair, New Jersey, the George St. Playhouse and, most recently, shop foreman at The Paper Mill Playhouse. He graduated from Grove City College in Pennsylvania with a BA in communications. He lives in Flemington, New Jersey with his wife, Debra, a costume designer-teacher, and their two sons, Kaelan and Schuyler.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **35 Million Watch SHoW DMX at Olympics**

**City Theatrical's** new SHoW DMX wireless DMX performed flawlessly at the Beijing Olympics in front of an average of 35 million viewers per day.

NBC Olympics Lighting Designer Steve Brill of The Lighting Design Group used SHoW DMX to light the Bob Costas NBC Prime Time Studio set which rotated 360 degrees on a turntable. Power to dimmers mounted on the revolving set was run through a three-phase commutator, but DMX data was sent wirelessly from a SHoW DMX Transmitter in the studio. SHoW DMX delivered DMX data to dimmers, which controlled 26 key lights on a circular truss over the news desk.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **ETC Helps Light Puccini Festival**

Not only is 2008 the year of Giacomo Puccini's 150th anniversary celebrations, it is the 54th year of the Puccini Festival. The festival now boasts a brand new open-air stage lit with help from **ETC** on the shores of Lake Massaciucoli in the composer's birthplace of Torre Del Lago, northern Italy.

As well as lighting the opening concert by La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus and a tribute to Puccini by the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra, an ETC Congo Jr. control desk - with a second as backup - was used for *Turandot*, *Tosca*, *Madam Butterfly*, and one of the composer's lesser known operas, *Edgar*, which featured a set design by United Kingdom artist Roger Dean (famous for his album cover designs for top bands such as Yes) and costumes designed by his daughter, Freyja.

For more information on ETC and its products, visit [www.etcconnect.com](http://www.etcconnect.com).

[To Top](#) ↑

### **Fire Curtain Fabric Gets MEA Certification**

Fire curtains made with patented ZetexPlus fabric, a product of Newtex Industries, Inc., have been approved for use in proscenium theatres in and around Manhattan by the New York City Department of Buildings' Report of Materials and Equipment Acceptance Division (MEA).

**J. R. Clancy, Inc.**, a design, manufacturing, and installation company for theatrical rigging equipment and a leading supplier of fire curtains to the theater industry, uses ZetexPlus fabric in the manufacture of its fire safety curtains and borders. The MEA report, #212-08-M, accepts Zetex Plus 1210 with or without wire insertion in either black or natural color. Zetex Plus 800 fabric also was accepted by the report.

For more than 15 years, Clancy's fire curtains made with Zetex 1210 fabric have been listed by the California State Fire Marshall for use as Class I proscenium curtains, a status accepted by code authorities virtually everywhere in the United States except for New York City. With the new MEA approval, J. R. Clancy fire curtains are now listed for use anywhere in the country.

To learn more about Zetex Plus fire curtains from J. R. Clancy, [click here](#), or call 800-836-1885.

[To Top](#) 

News from:



# Sustaining Members

[Next Story](#)
[▷ USITT](#) [▷ Calendar](#) [▷ JobsUSITT](#) [▷ Sightlines](#)
**October 2008**

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Welcome InCord

Please welcome **InCord** to Sustaining membership in USITT. InCord bills itself as a manufacturer of top-quality safety nets that are made to customers' precise specifications, priced competitively, and delivered exactly when customers want them.

InCord is dedicated to helping organizations prevent life-threatening, costly accidents. Its safety netting and fall protection equipment helps people comply with tough regulations such as OSHA's Fall Protection Standard 1926.502. Visit [www.incord.com](http://www.incord.com) to learn more about the company and its products.

[To Top ↑](#)

## Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

USITT is also pleased to welcome the **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center** as a new Sustaining member. Its mission is to be a place for artistic discovery and entertainment, and its vision is to be a cultural and economic anchor, providing innovative, world-class programming to an ever-expanding audience. Christopher Sheley is technical director for the center, and information about specific programs can be found at [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org).

[To Top ↑](#)

## Serapid Breaks Records at Olympics

On August 8, 2008, 8:08 p.m. EST, the moment had finally come: inside the spectacular "Bird's Nest," the floor began to rise, floating platforms lifted smoothly, hundreds of dancers, light and rhythm filled the stadium space - and the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing had officially begun. The brilliant opening made a stunning impression before the eyes of the whole world, which in part should be credited to the company **SERAPID**. With offices in Sterling Heights, Michigan, SERAPID is a supplier of lift and linear-motion systems and well-known in the international entertainment industry.

Sixty-two of SERAPID'S LinkLift 100 lifting columns elevated the stage area in the Beijing stadium, the total surface measuring 11,625 square feet. The gigantic structure might well have set the first world record in the games. The whole of the stage was divided into ten individual platforms, their unusual shapes following the ideas of the renowned United Kingdom-based event-designer Mark Fisher. The Beijing Olympic project further highlights SERAPID's repertoire of great stage installations including the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa

## This month:

InCord

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

Serapid

TMB

Stage Technologies

Wybron

Stagecraft Industries

Cobalt Studios

Mesa, California; the Walt-Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles; the Copenhagen Opera in Denmark; and the Brighton Dome Theatre in the United Kingdom.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **TMB Featured Products at PLASA**

At PLASA 2008 the **TMB** stand housed new brands in TMB's distribution family plus many other new product offerings! Global manufacturers were on site, as were TMB sales staff for hands-on demos. Also featured was the renowned hospitality of TMB and its gracious PLASA neighbours, Bandit Lites.

TMB Architectural presented a comprehensive range of products and solutions. Making their PLASA debut were the new ProTester MOBAL digital cable tester by GDS; the PufferSphere digital spherical display from Pufferfish; ProPower RBD portable rubber power distros; ProMotion motor control by GDS and the ProFan professional high velocity fan with DMX control.

Find out more about TMB and its' products at [www.tmb.com](http://www.tmb.com).

[To Top](#) ↑

### **Stage Technologies at PLASA, LDI**

**Stage Technologies** launched new automation products at this year's PLASA in London and will feature them at LDI in Las Vegas.

Don't miss the opportunity to see the innovative Flight, a product designed to bridge the gap between lighting and automation. In addition, the new Acrobat G6 console and a range of new Autour control racks designed specifically for the rental and touring market are featured.

Stage Technologies will exhibit at booth 356 at the LDI Show October 24 to 26 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Nevada.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **Wybron Seeks "Murphy's Law" Stories**

Have you experienced problems, mishaps, or disasters involving lighting equipment? **Wybron** wants to hear from you. The lighting company is collecting stories that illustrate Murphy's Law - the old adage that says, "Whatever can go wrong will go wrong." It's a truth well-known by those in the live production world.

Go to [www.wybron.com/murphyslaw](http://www.wybron.com/murphyslaw) to share stories of lighting equipment difficulties and disasters. Five randomly selected people who fill out the custom survey will each receive a \$20 iTunes gift certificate.

Wybron plans to feature the best stories in an article that discusses how lighting feedback systems can warn users about problems before they happen. For more information, visit [www.wybron.com](http://www.wybron.com) or call 719-548-9774.



[To Top ↑](#)

### **Appointments at Stagecraft Industries**

**Stagecraft Industries, Inc.** has announced that Tom Apperson, presently Chief Financial Officer, has been named President of the company. He will manage day-to-day operations and advise CEO and Chairman of the Board, Mark Walter. Mr. Apperson has an extensive background in the construction industry, in financial management, and in technology. He has been with Stagecraft since 1984.

Kevin Shetterly was named a Stagecraft Corporate Officer. Mr. Shetterly is Sales Manager for Rigging and Drapery Products. His 15-year career with Stagecraft has included field installation, project management, estimating, and sales. He has a degree in theatre technology from the University of Illinois.

Stagecraft Industries is a leading provider of stage rigging, stage draperies and theatrical lighting equipment. To learn more visit [www.stagecraftindustries.com](http://www.stagecraftindustries.com).

[To Top ↑](#)

### **Cobalt Studios Events for Fall, Beyond.**

**Cobalt Studios** has planned several Specialty Pro Seminars for the next few months.

Donna Wymore will present *All About Foam* September 29 through October 3. *The Art of Scene Painting - Historic Method - Part 2* will be led by Lance Brockman October 6 to 10. From November 10 to 14, Theresa Dringenberg will lead *Sign Painting for Film and Theatre*. The *Anti Freakout Job Market Roundtable* is scheduled for February 27 and 28. *Landscape & Mural Painting* with Bob Moody will be held April 20 to 24.

More details are available at [www.cobaltstudios.net](http://www.cobaltstudios.net)

[To Top ↑](#)



# News from: USITT's President

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



The bridge across the Ohio River, near the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati where the 2009 Conference & Stage Expo will be held, reaches into Kentucky. Exhibitors and attendees have found that the connections made at Conferences can stretch around the world.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

## Building Global Bridges

**Carl Lefko**  
*USITT President*

Since USITT was founded nearly 50 years ago, it has grown to include members from more than 30 countries around the world. These members are introduced to USITT in a variety of ways -- by colleagues who are current members; through OISTAT, the International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians; by attending the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo; through USITT's presence at other trade shows or international exhibits like the Prague Quadrennial and World Stage Design; and perhaps most of all, via [usitt.org](http://usitt.org), our virtual home on the world wide web.

A long-time Contributing member of USITT who sometimes wondered about the return on the investment of money, time, and effort which is expended to design, build, transport, and staff a booth, recently discovered that a connection made several years ago at Stage Expo had laid the foundation for a relationship with a new international client whose performing arts center is located more than 2,300 miles away. E-mailed queries about catalog items, scrims, and curtain fabrics led to in-depth discussions about replacing old-fashioned rigging with a more modern system, and eventually a trip was made to a far-flung Caribbean island to

renew the acquaintance and measure the stage. Another trip to install the new rigging and curtains will bring this handsome performing arts center more up-to-date and cement this special relationship which began at Stage Expo.

When asked why he had selected a company located so far away to assist with this project, the theatre's technical services officer responded that he had seen their booth and talked with their staff at the 2005 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Toronto. While searching the web for professional organizations in the entertainment industry, he found several associations, but joined USITT because theatre is his first love. A trip to the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo introduced him to a wide range of companies and products, but he said that after being attracted to their booth, he made a special connection when he spoke to this company's staff.

In today's difficult economy, our commercial members may question whether the investment they make in USITT is worth it, but as this story illustrates, while they may not always see an immediate return on their investment, a casual conversation with a student or a new member today may result in a future new customer. USITT members investigate new products and technologies at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo so that when the opportunity to spend the money to modernize a theatre arrives, they will be ready to make intelligent and informed decisions on the best possible equipment for their organization.

As I tell my students, people in this business are never more than two contacts apart, often finding that they share a common acquaintance. The contacts made at each conference are invaluable and often lead to long-term relationships. In today's world, although the contacts may be made with people or companies who are located in a distant part of the world, the internet makes it possible to easily stay closely connected between conferences.

USITT is currently making an investment in its website infrastructure to insure it will give an accurate representation of the organization in a format that is attractive and easy to navigate. Detailed information about USITT's programs and services will keep current members up-to-date and attract new members here in North America and around the world, laying the foundation for a new series of global bridges.

[To Top](#) 

[Next Page](#) 

News from:



# Regional Sections

[Next Story](#)
[▷ USITT](#) [▷ Calendar](#) [▷ JobsUSITT](#) [▷ Sightlines](#)

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Ohio Valley Elections, Fall Activities

The Ohio Valley Regional Section announced the election of two new board members at large for the 2008-2010 term. They are Pam Lavarnway, scenic designer at Wright State University, and Rebecca White, costume designer at Otterbein College. Along with the two new board members, congratulations go out to Gina Neuerer, Sinclair Community College; Kristine Kearney, Ohio State University; and Matt Benjamin, Wright State University on their reelection as board members at large. Section officers include newly elected chair, Chuck Hatcher; and VC for Programming, Tammy Honesty; along with returning officers, Stirling Shelton, VC for Operations; John Seaman, Treasurer; and Steve Pauna, Secretary.

The OVS invites everyone to its Fall Event Saturday, October 11 in Cleveland. This promises to be an exciting day of exploration and an inside look at the theatre scene in Cleveland.

The schedule for the day is:

- **9:00 - 9:50 a.m.**  
Registration, 14th Street Theatre Lobby, 2037 East 14th Street (Euclid Avenue and the Hanna Theatre), continental, networking breakfast during registration; hosted by Vincent Lighting
- **9:50 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Welcome and announcements
- **10:05 - 11:25 a.m.**  
Hanna Theatre, 2067 East 14th Street, tour of the newly renovated theatre, home of Great Lakes Theater Festival
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
Panel discussion regarding the Hanna Theatre renovation. Hanna Theatre or 14th Street Theatre; participants include the major tenant - Great Lakes Theater Festival, the landlord - PlayhouseSquare and the architect - Westlake Reed Leskosky
- **12:30 - 12:50 p.m.**  
Walk to offices of Westlake Reed Leskosky, 925 Euclid Avenue Suite 1900
- **12:50 - 1:45 p.m.**  
Office tour, reception/light lunch and refreshments; Westlake Reed Leskosky's master plan for the PlayhouseSquare theater district downtown that is now a national model, major visitor attraction and economic development catalyst for Cleveland; hosted by Westlake Reed Leskosky

This month:  
Ohio Valley

- **1:45 - 2:00 p.m.**  
Walk to House of Blues, 308 Euclid Avenue
- **2:00 - 2:45 p.m.**  
Tour House of Blues complex
- **2:45 - 3:15 p.m.**  
Walk to Idea Center building, 1375 Euclid Avenue  
PlayhouseSquare
- **3:15 - 4:00 p.m.**  
Tour Idea Center, Home of WVIZ-TV and WCPN, the local public TV and radio stations; black box space and dance studio are within the complex along with TV and radio production studios and other support spaces.
- **4:00 - 4:30 p.m.**  
Membership meeting, Studio/Black Box Theatre Ideastream
- **4:30 - 6:00 p.m.**  
View Design Exhibit and tour rest of the PlayhouseSquare theatres 2007-2008 Design Exhibit display, Idea Center Educational Classroom, lower level

Visit the website at [www.usittohiovalley.org](http://www.usittohiovalley.org). Pre-registration deadline is Monday, October 6.

[To Top](#) ↑





# Commissions

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



The Questor's Theatre in Ealing-London, England has included its hat storage system as part of the Costume Storage Solutions Database which allows costume professionals a way to view what others have found helpful. The database is searchable based on many criteria.

Photo/Courtesy Costume Storage Solutions Database

## Costume Storage Database Waiting for Submissions

**Sherry Harper McCombs**  
*Costume Design & Technology Commission*

The Costume Storage Solutions Database is a collection of images and information about the way in which costumers store their costumes. It is available [online](#) where visitors may log in as a guest with a password of guest. The database currently contains images from a variety of theatrical organizations including educational institutions, professional theatres, rental facilities, and operas. Visitors may access these images in a variety of ways by searching according to category or by viewing them all and page through by clicking on "search" without setting any category parameters.

Costume shop and storage managers are creative people doing interesting things with limited space and resources. The Costume Storage Database is a resource that can help by providing a visual reference of what other institutions are doing with their costumes.

In order to make this resource as helpful as possible, as many different spaces as possible need to be represented. Participation in this project is simple. With any digital camera, take clear, representative photos of the various aspects of a storage facility. Send an e-mail to [harpermc@dickinson.edu](mailto:harpermc@dickinson.edu) to get a password to be eligible to upload to the database. The uploading process is as



simple as using the online Flickr website. The only descriptions needed are brief and a list of any suppliers for interesting storage apparatuses used in a facility is requested.

The space does not have to be high tech in order to be interesting to others. Often the simplest solutions are the best with budgetary and space constraints. There is even a category for "less than desirable" spaces known as the "house of horrors" and which can be submitted without identifying the submitter or the organization owning the space. Before and after shots of facilities being upgraded or changed in any way are also sought.

Check out the [images](#). Then photograph the space and submit the photos before the fall season or semester gets underway!

[To Top](#) 



October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Offer Mentoring to Young Technical Directors

**Michael O'Nele**

*Project Leader, Young TD Mentoring*

The Technical Production Commission recently announced the Young Technical Director Mentoring Project. This effort is intended to support anyone who is relatively new to being a TD, or students who may be considering a career as a TD. The project is served by a network of experienced practitioners committed to sharing their hard-won knowledge of the TD's life in the theatre.

The project's goals are to:

- support young TDs as they navigate the early years of their career;
- help make the transition from student to professional;
- help a new TD transition into an academic theatre position;
- help find solutions to production and resource challenges;
- match new TDs with others who will serve as mentors.

An ongoing series of sessions at the Annual USITT Conference will be sponsored by the Technical Production Commission. Highlights for 2009 in Cincinnati will include: *Networking Your Way Through Your Career, Budgets, and Professional Opportunities for the Theatre Technician*.

Portfolio review sessions are hosted at each annual Conference and staffed by respected and experienced Technical Directors from professional and academic venues. The Technical Production Commission Reception is held annually and again at the 2009 Conference; it includes a social setting for networking opportunities and an opportunity to meet with potential mentors. The Technical Production Commission's website includes the notes from past conferences and the online publication *Technical Source Guide*. Works in progress, such as an online materials database and an annotated database of print resources, are available.

Get involved, either to be mentored or to become a mentor, by contacting Project Leader Michael O'Nele at: University of Memphis, Department of Theatre & Dance, 144 Theatre Communication Bldg. Memphis, TN 38152; monele@memphis.edu; 901-678-2564.





# Conference & Stage Expo

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



USITT's Student Volunteers are valued assistants who help keep the Annual Conference & Stage Expo running smoothly. Student Volunteers always manage to find time for food and fun in between their 15 hours of volunteer time.

Photo/Casey Kearns

## Seek Student Volunteers For 2009 Conference

**Monica L. Merritt**  
*Conference & Database Manager*

One hundred student members are needed to participate in the 2009 Student Volunteer Program. In exchange for 15 hours of work at the 2009 Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio, USITT will waive the Conference registration fee. Assignments vary from conference office support, A/V and computer assistance, Stage Expo special exhibition set-up and tear down, and other opportunities that will help make the 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo a success.

The Student Volunteer Program registration form will be available online starting October 1. At that time, current USITT Student members may download, complete, and submit the application form to the USITT office.

After October 14, the Student Volunteer Program will be open to anyone wishing to become a USITT member. Forms will be available online at [www.usitt.org/cincy](http://www.usitt.org/cincy). Any student who is not a current USITT member may sign up for the program and apply for membership at the same time.

Applicants are selected for the program on a first come, first served basis. Incomplete applications will be returned. For more information about the Student Volunteer Program, contact Monica

L. Merritt, [monica@office.usitt.org](mailto:monica@office.usitt.org) or 800-938-7488 ext 104.

[To Top](#) 



# Conference & Stage Expo

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



Hundreds of aircraft across many decades, such as the jet at left, are on view at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. A one-day trip is planned prior to the start of the 2009 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in March.

## Ohio Valley Aids in PDWs, Session Programs

**Kathie Brookfield**  
*Cincinnati Promotions Coordinator*

Fourteen Professional Development Workshops (PDWs) will be offered in March prior to the 2009 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo and over two hundred sessions will be held during the regular conference. Three members of the Ohio Valley Regional Section where the Conference will be located -- Tammy Honesty, Brian Ruggaber, and Kathie Brookfield -- stepped forward last November volunteering to serve on the Conference Committee as Programming Co-Coordinators and Promotions Coordinator.

Ms. Honesty took the lead on programming and Ms. Brookfield serves as Promotions Coordinator of the 2009 event. Part of their job is to provide the Conference Committee and Commissioners ideas using regional resources and possible ideas for regional programming. The three began brainstorming in January at the airport while waiting for the flight back to Cincinnati from Houston where they met with the Conference Committee planning the 2008 event to "learn the ropes" of putting together the annual event.

Back home, Ms. Honesty organized and typed the list and presented it at the Ohio Valley Section board meeting where more information and ideas were gathered. Many of the regional PDW

and session ideas were picked up by the Commissions and will be incorporated into the program of PDWs and regular conference session offerings.

It is important to register for the PDWs early, as soon as the registration opportunity is available, to ensure a spot and allow the committee to evaluate enrollment. Online registration is now open at [www.usitt.org/cincy](http://www.usitt.org/cincy). Here is a preview of the PDW's using the regional resources in the Ohio Valley Section:

The PDW session *Make It & Break It*, is a two day workshop giving 15 participants hands-on experience with a large variety of mold making techniques with Smooth-On products and techniques for making breakaway glass and bottles.

Participants will make practical castings from their molds. Plans are to hold the event in the Historic Music Hall. The session will be chaired by Rick Clever and include panelists Brad Frikkers, John Lavarney, and Tristan Cupp. Participants can visit the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and enjoy a guided tour of the lighting installation featuring extensive numbers of ETC fixtures. The day-long trip to Dayton, Ohio allows ample opportunities to explore the National Museum, which celebrates its 85th anniversary in 2008. The world's largest military aviation museum features more than 400 aerospace vehicles. The session is chaired by Raymond A. Kent, CTS, Associate, and Jill Maurer.

The Lighting Commission session, *Photographing Your Lighting Design*, chaired by Tom Grabowski will include one of USITT's Conference Photographers, Richard Finkelstein as a panelist. The session is planned for Miami University in Oxford, Ohio on March 17.

The Technical Production Commission is sponsoring *Designing and Rigging Simple Performer Flying Effects*. Delbert Hall will conduct this workshop that includes a classroom session on the physics and principles of rigging simple performer flying systems and a hands-on section allowing participants the opportunity to work with many of the systems and see how they work. Other topics included are equipment vendors, choreography, and working with a professional flying effects company. This session is planned for Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Health & Safety Commission is offering up to 30 participants the *OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Training* chaired by David Glowacki with local OSHA representatives leading the training on Tuesday and Wednesday Center. The sessions will cover safety and health regulations and is appropriate for both entry level and experienced workers. Topics include walking and working surfaces, exit routes, emergency action plans, fire prevention plans, fire protection electrical safety, personal protective equipment, hazard communication, fall protection, blood borne pathogens, and introduction to industrial hygiene.



Scene Design Commission is offering two PDWs on Tuesday. *Now You See It, Now You Don't: Painting With UV Sensitive Pigment* will be chaired by Susan Crabtree with panelists Kim Lions and Ann Clark. It will take place at Historic Music Hall and offer 20 participants the chance to be guided through a project using UV sensitive pigments while painting under UV light. *From Model to Monumental/Studio to Stage*, chaired by Ms. Honesty, offers 16 participants a chance to be guided through the advanced techniques of model making and using models as a sketching tool, photographing models, incorporating natural elements, and sculpting by master model makers/scenic designers Paul Shortt, Tom Umfrid, and Mr. Ruggaber. This session will be at the Duke Energy Center.

The Sound Commission is offering *Making the Leap to Digital Consoles* on Tuesday at the College Conservatory of Music on the University of Cincinnati Campus. Only 20 participants will have this opportunity. Chuck Hatcher, sound design and technology faculty at CCM, chairs and hosts this session with industry professionals Jim Van Bergen and Drew Dalzell. During this hands-on session, participants will learn what to expect from digital mixing consoles and how to harness their power and flexibility for a production.

For more information on all the Professional Development Workshops and tours to be offered before the start of the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo, visit [www.usitt.org/cincy](http://www.usitt.org/cincy) and follow the Professional Development Workshop dropdown from the Sessions tab.

[To Top](#) 

[Next Page](#) 



# Conference & Stage Expo

[Next Story](#)

[▷ USITT](#)
[▷ Calendar](#)
[▷ JobsUSITT](#)
[▷ Sightlines](#)

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

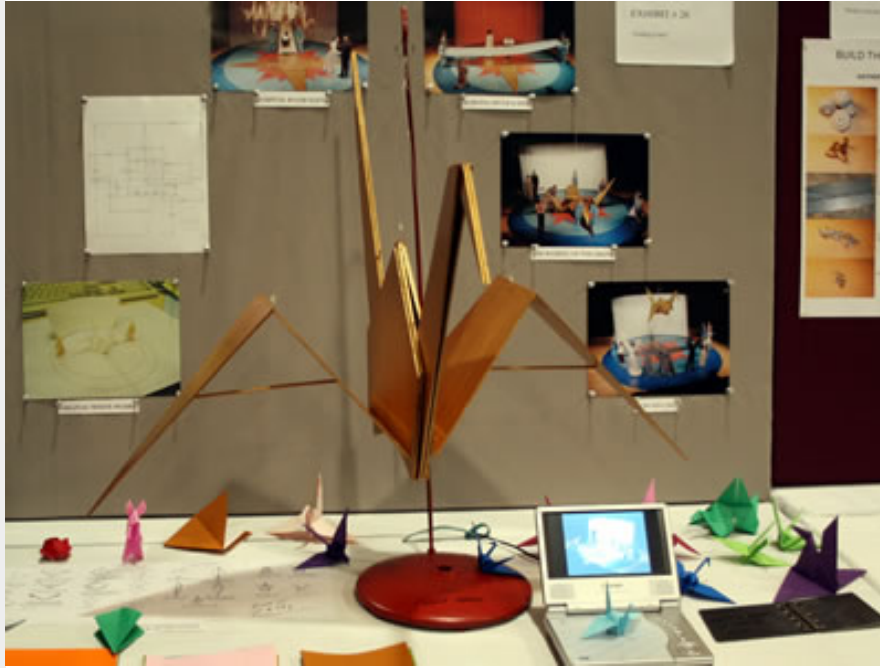
- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



All of the projects accepted for Tech Expo 2009 will be included in the display which is part of Stage Expo, as this huge "paper" crane was in 2007.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

## Tech Expo - Show and Tell

**Rob Kerby**  
*Tech Expo Chair*

Remember show and tell from grade school? It was a great chance to show off something special.

USITT's Tech Expo is the technical version of show and tell, and the great thing about it is that those who enter have the opportunity to be chosen for a cash prize.

Let's face it, people who have great ideas like to show off every once in a while and the Tech Expo is a great way to show off to the rest of USITT at the 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati. However the deadline of October 31 is rapidly approaching. Those who have had the opportunity to create a unique production element or device are encouraged to share it with everyone. Remember all areas of production are included in the tech expo: scenery, lighting, sound, props, costumes, special effects. Entering a project for Tech Expo is not difficult. [Click here](#) to download the application form, and [click here](#) to download the submission instructions.

Tech Expo is a great way for members in academic theatre to get published in a juried publication as well as an opportunity for students to show their stuff and build their portfolios. The Tech Expo Committee encourages all who have risen to a production

challenge to take a moment and write an article, assemble pictures and drawings, and enter Tech Expo.

[To Top](#) 



# Conference & Stage Expo

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



The Costume Poster Session, held Thursday afternoon in 2008, provided a broad variety of information drawn from the experience and scholarship of participants.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

## Earlier Deadline for Costume Poster Proposals

**Donna Meester**

*Costume Design & Technology Commission*

Now that work on fall productions is getting underway, many are discovering new and innovative solutions to various costume problems. Why not share those solutions with others who may encounter them? Submit a proposal by November 15 to the annual Costume Poster Session.


The Costume Poster Session is a time when costume designers and technicians are able to share information with colleagues that is probably not well-known, or perhaps of their own invention. This includes, but is not limited to, a new solution to an old problem, a new problem and its solution, a classroom or management technique, the results of research, or other ideas, discoveries, or developments in the field of costuming. This session has become one of the most popular events for the Costume Commission, having an average of 200 to 250 people attending.

As an added benefit, poster presentations are widely accepted as meeting the requirements for scholarly publication. Those employed by an educational institution may be able to get the school to fund some or all expenses to the 49th USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati. Poster presenters also may have the opportunity to publish their ideas in *TD&T*.

All submissions are juried by the Costume Poster Selection Committee. Ideas need to be presented electronically in the form of an abstract - a brief, concise, summary of the information to be presented in the poster, no more than 200 words typewritten. E-mail abstracts by November 15 to Donna Meester (dmeester@as.ua.edu.) The deadline is earlier than in previous years in response to requests from those who need to know if a proposal has been accepted to receive funding. Applicants will be notified by early December.

As excitement and interest in the poster session grows, ways to archive the presentations are being explored. As a result, there will be several guidelines that will need to be followed. Presenters will be sent a list of guidelines when they are notified of acceptance. All presenters must submit a copy of their presentation and handouts electronically by March 6.

Questions or requests for more information can be directed to: Donna Meester, The University of Alabama, Dept. of Theatre & Dance, Box 870239, Tuscaloosa, AL 25487-0239; phone 205-348-9032; or e-mail dmeester@as.ua.edu.

[To Top](#) 





# Conference & Stage Expo

[Next Story](#)

[▷ USITT](#)
[▷ Calendar](#)
[▷ JobsUSITT](#)
[▷ Sightlines](#)

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Alexander Technique for Technicians

**Robert Berls**

*Vice-Commissioner for Health and Safety, Scene Design Commission*

Ever felt a kink in the neck, a sore shoulder, or a tight back after painting for hours on a drop? How about screw gun elbow or carpenter's knee? Planning doctor visits after every light hang due to wrist pain? Unable to perform job-related tasks that were easy just a few years ago? The list goes on, and many who have been working in technical theatre have experienced some form of repetitive stress injury. Countless tasks in theatre cause pain and stiffness during and after the project. Since most can neither afford a weekly full body massage nor expect to find completely safe and side effect-free pain relievers, what can be done? There is a solution to these physical ailments: the Alexander Technique.

Yes, an acting technique could provide a method for helping to reduce repetitive stress injuries in the workplace. Those who had the opportunity to attend the Alexander Technique session during the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston in March had a first-hand look at what stretching and stress management can do. From group stretching before a work period to three simple massage techniques of the hand to reduce stress and relax the muscles, this well-attended session showed the basics of this acting technique and how it can be applied to benefit those on the technical side. Intrigued? Want another chance to attend such an informative session?

Good news! The Cincinnati 2009 Conference & Stage Expo will offer a more detailed look into these methods. *Alexander Technique for Technicians* will delve further into optimizing body movements for maintaining healthy and sustained productivity throughout an entire career. Participants are encouraged to bring small and portable hand tools of the trade so several Alexander-trained presenters may lead small group sessions to examine possible solutions to the damage of repetitive movements and preparations to take before beginning work. This session should enlighten technicians at all stages of their careers and help to increase their productivity and ability to be healthy in the workplace.



[To Top](#) ↑

[Next Page](#) →





# Conference & Stage Expo

[Next Story](#)

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



Bob Belanger and Sebastien Richard were talking to visitors during CITT's Rendez-Vous 2008. They were in the Show Distribution booth at CITT's Trade Show.

Photo/Victor Svenningson

## CITT Holds Rendez-vous 2008

**Helen Willard**

*Stage Expo Sales Manager*

CITT held its 18th Annual Conference & Trade Show in Ottawa August 14 to 17. The trade show was in the historic Government Conference Centre, which opened in 1912 as Ottawa's Grand Trunk railway station. The lovely Beaux-Arts style building stands across from the stately Chateau Laurier hotel on the banks of the Rideau Canal. The monumental waiting room of the former train station, called the finest room in Canada, was modeled after the great thermal baths of Rome. The building hosts a variety of conferences, including the G20 in 2001.

It was a unique setting for the CITT trade show, where many USITT member companies were spotted, including AC Lighting, A.C.T Lighting, Cirque du Soleil, Electronic Theatre Controls, GALA Systems, Jack A. Frost Ltd., MDG Fog Generators, Ontario Staging Limited, Osram Sylvania, RC4 Wireless Dimming, Robert Juliat, Rosco Laboratories, Show Distribution, Stagestep, Staging Concepts, Strand Lighting, and Wenger Corporation.

A wide variety of conference sessions were held in the Arts Court, formerly the Carleton County Courthouse, and now the home of the professional arts in Ottawa. Off-site activities included a venue tour of the Irving Greenberg Theatre, new home of the Great Canadian Theatre Company, a backstage tour of *Wicked* at the National Arts Centre, and a tour of the Parliament Buildings Chamber and Sound & Light show.

Pre-Conference workshops included Fall Arrest Certification, Pyrotechnics Certification, Fireworks Display Certification, RF

Microphone Master Class, and The Basics of Rigging and Flying Performers. Attendees enjoyed a variety of special events, including the Junk Challenge Adventure, the New Products Breakfast, the Corporate BBQ Luncheon, SWAG BINGO, the Health & Safety Breakfast, and the Awards Banquet.

Ottawa is a charming city and a lovely setting for the CITT Conference, with the majesty of Parliament Hill towering above the Ottawa River. The National Capital region includes Gatineau, Quebec, which is just across the river, and home to the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

RENDEZ-VOUS 2009 will be held August 13 to 16 at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, Alberta.

[To Top](#) 

[Next Page](#) 



# For the Record

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

## October 2008

### News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

### News From:

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

### Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

### Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

### For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Executive Committee

- Carl Lefko, *President*
- Patricia Dennis, *Secretary*
- Travis DeCastro, *Treasurer*
- Kim Williamson, *Vice-President for Commissions*
- Bobbi Owen, *Vice-President for Communications*
- Joe Aldridge, *Vice-President for Conferences*
- Alexandra Bonds, *Vice-President for International Activities*
- Michael Mehler, *Vice-President for Programming*
- Vacant, *Vice-President for Promotions & Development*
- Holly Monsos, *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters*
- Daniel Denhart, *Vice-President for Special Operations*
- Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, *Immediate Past President*

[To Top](#) ↑

## Directors at Large

### 2006-2009

- Leon Brauner
- Richard Dunham
- Debra Krajec
- Andi Lyons
- Donna Ruzika
- Bill Teague

### 2007-2010

- Lea Asbell-Swanger
- Nadine Charlson
- Michael Monsos
- Mark Shanda
- Sherry Wagner-Henry
- Craig Wolf

### 2008-2011

- Dan Culhane
- Mary Heilman
- David Krajec
- Carolyn Satter
- John S. Uthoff

- Monica Weinzapfel

[To Top](#) ↑



# For the Record

▷ USITT ▷ Calendar ▷ JobsUSITT ▷ Sightlines

October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf

## Honorary Lifetime Members

- Richard L. Arnold
- Willard F. Bellman
- Joy Spanabel Emery
- Eric Fielding
- Ted W. Jones
- Christine L. Kaiser
- Joel E. Rubin
- Tom Watson

USITT gratefully recognizes the individuals and businesses in these special categories of membership:

Honorary Lifetime Members

Contributing Members

Sustaining Members

[To Top](#) ↑

## Contributing Members

- American Harlequin Corporation
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Creative Handbook
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Disney Entertainment Productions
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- Entertainment Services & Technology Association (ESTA)
- Entertainment Technology
- Future Light
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- heatshrink.com
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- *Live Design Magazine*/LDI Show
- Martin Professional, Inc.

- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Morris Architects
- Norcostco, Inc
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SeaChanger by Ocean Optics
- SECOA
- Stage Research, Inc.
- StageRight Corporation
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Strand Lighting
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vari\*Lite
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Vortek, a division of Daktronics
- Walt Disney Entertainment
- Wenger Corporation
- ZFX, Inc.

[To Top](#) ↑

### **Sustaining Members**

- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- AC Power Distribution, Inc.
- A.C.T Lighting, Inc.
- AKT3 Company
- ALPS/Advanced Lighting & Production Services, Inc.
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Audio Visual Professional Group, Inc.
- Auerbach·Pollock·Friedlander
- A V Pro, Inc.
- Bandit Lites, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- Brawner & Associates LLC
- Bright Star Productions, Inc.
- University of California - Davis
- California Institute of the Arts
- Center Theatre Group
- Checkers Industrial Products Inc.
- Chicago Spotlight, Inc.
- Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
- Cobalt Studios
- Colorado Springs Fine Art Center
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Cosler Theatre Design
- The Crosby Group, Inc.
- Dazian Fabrics, LLC
- Designlab Chicago
- Electronics Diversified, LLC



- Entertainment Lighting Services
- Fisher Theatrical, LLC
- Foy Invenenterprises, Inc.
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- Gerriets International Inc.
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- GRT Genesis
- Hall Stage North America, Inc.
- The Hilliard Corporation
- Hollywood Lighting Services, Inc.
- I. Weiss
- InCord Ltd.
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- KUPO Industrial Corp
- LCS Series (Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.)
- Le Maitre Special Effects Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lex Products Corp.
- Lighting & Electronics, Inc.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company, Inc.
- Live Production Institute
- Location Lighting Systems, Inc.
- Look Solutions USA, Ltd.
- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- LynTec
- The MAGNUM Companies, Ltd.
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.
- Make-Up Designory
- Mehron, Inc.
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
- Mutual Hardware
- Niscon Inc.
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- On Location Lighting Systems, Inc.
- Ontario Staging Limited
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pathway Connectivity
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Production Intercom, Inc.
- Prolyte Products Group
- Protech Theatrical Services, Inc
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Robert Juliat America

- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Schuler Shook
- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- Selador/Shine Lighting
- Selecon
- Serapid, Inc.
- Show Distribution Group Inc.
- Skjonberg Controls, Inc.
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- South Dakota State University
- Spotlight S.R.L.
- Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.
- Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc.
- Stage Technologies
- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- StageLight, Inc.
- StageSpot
- Staging Concepts, Inc.
- Strong Entertainment Lighting
- University of Texas Performing Arts Center
- Theatre Arts Video Library
- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Theatre Victoria
- Thematics
- Thern Inc.
- James Thomas Engineering
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
- TMB
- Tobins Lake Sales
- TOMCAT USA, Inc.
- Topac Inc.
- Turning Star Inc.
- Union Connector Co, Inc.
- VectorWorks Spotlight by NNA
- Wayne State University Dept. of Theatre
- Wireless Solution
- Wybron, Inc.

**Commercial Endorsement Policy:** USITT is pleased to announce the release of new products, and report on the activities and successes of commercial members. However, USITT does not recommend or endorse specific companies or products.

[To Top](#) ↑



October 2008

## News & Notices

- 2009 Election Slate
- Announcements
- Young Designer Awards
- Costume Symposium
- Member Benefits
- The Last Word

## News From:

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

## Commissions

- Costume Storage
- Mentoring Offered

## Conference & Stage Expo

- Student Volunteers
- Cincy Workshops
- Tech Expo Entries
- Seek Costume Posters
- Alexander Technique
- CITT Conference

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- October 2008 issue pdf



The large puppet, at left, was part of a parade experienced by participants in the Asian Ritual Festival Workshop. OISTAT sponsored the 11-day workshop in Taipei, Taiwan.

Photo/Sandy Bonds

## From Ritual to Theatre: OISTAT's Asian Workshop

**Sandy Bonds**

*VP-International Activities*

In Taoist practice, during the seventh month of each lunar year, the gates of the underworld swing open and the ghosts are free to wander among the living world. Ceremonies are held to both welcome the ghosts and provide for their needs, while discouraging them from staying longer than the month-long celebrations. In August, OISTAT, now with its office located in Taipei, Taiwan, organized an event to introduce the Ghost Festival to theatre practitioners from around the world and to engender conversations about the interconnections between theatre and ritual heritages.

Among the international participants who met in Taipei were Maija Pekkanen, former OISTAT President from Finland; Dorita Hannah, an architect and scenographer from New Zealand; and Pamela Howard, now retired from Central St. Martin's College of Art & Design, and initiator of the Scenofest held in conjunction with the Prague Quadrennial.

USITT members attending the workshop were Cathie McClellan, costume designer and department chair of Theatre Arts at the University of the Pacific, and Connie Strayer, costume designer for Stanford University and union makeup artist, and Alexandra Bonds, costume designer for University of Oregon and USITT Vice-President for International Activities. They were joined by a selection of talented Taipei theatre and dance professionals, as well as a number of students from the area, making the workshop a valuable interaction between local and international artists.

The 11-day workshop from August 13 to 23 began with a field trip to Keelung, north of Taipei, to visit the Zhu Pa Tan temple, richly decorated for the festivities. A false façade was erected in front of the temple with



elaborately constructed paper lanterns of figures and animals. To the right of the entrance, a stage had been set up for performances of traditional opera, which are presented for the ghosts and carry on regardless of whether there are humans in the audience as well. The courtyard contained several paper houses intended to become offerings for the ghosts. After dark the parade, sponsored by 15 of the local clans, began with each presenting a series of lighted floats, marching bands, costumed dancers, walking participants, and a paper house to offer to the ghosts.

As it was the year of the rat, a surprising number of Mickey Mouse-referenced-images were presented. Once the parade had concluded, the paper houses were taken to the waterfront. Each was filled with paper money inscribed with pictures of items that homeless spirits might desire -- clothing, food, and shelter. One by one, the paper lantern houses were launched into the Ba Dou Ze harbor by a team of swimmers and then set ablaze.



A second excursion took the group to Hsin Zhu to explore an exhibition of paper artwork including a demonstration of how to make the paper figures used in the rituals. Hung Hsin-Fu, a paper sculptor, described his life-long work in paper sculpture, with examples of his beautifully detailed masks, pop-up books, and animated toys on display in the gallery. The workshop then traveled to the center of the city to view the street parade of ceremonial puppets from the local temples. Each temple has eight super puppets representing important figures in the religion, and

they are incorporated into the various celebratory events. In addition, the parades feature palanquins carrying god-images, and with some temple groups, the members of the traditional opera troupe march along the route as well.

Back in Taipei, the members of the workshop were treated to a dress rehearsal of *Mirrors of Life*, performed by the Legend Lin Dance Theatre. Artistic Director Len Lee-Chin uses ritual in her choreography to reaffirm the cultural characteristics of Taiwan, and this exquisite and mesmerizing piece of ritual theatre has toured internationally. The 12-part composition begins in silence, broken by drumbeats, and then the Goddess Mastu enters to lead the spirits of the ritual, opening the doorway between the living and the dead.



The workshop participants were then organized into five teams and each was charged with creating, in the remaining few days, a design as performance response to reflect upon the events they had experienced. Each production team consisted of at least one international artist, one Taiwan artist, and several of the students.

Ms. McClellan described the process: "Quick! In five days, plan, design, build, and perform a 15-minute production, working in collaboration with other artists and students, based on three days' joint observations of a series of unique cultural events, and do it in a major metropolitan city far from home with no idea of where to find anything.

"It was an explosion of color, sound, smell, taste; in some ways, an assault on the senses, an immersion into the life and art of a culture as far removed from anything I have experienced before as anything could be."



With the mixture of specialties, talents, and cultural backgrounds the results were as stimulating as they were varied. A performance was held on the final night of the workshop for an audience of about 100 people, including the Director of the Third Department, Tsai-Lang Huang, one of the generous sponsors of the workshop.

Ms. Strayer remarked, "This was a rare opportunity to experience not only an aspect of Taiwanese culture, but to collaborate with other international artists to create unique responses, reactions, and interpretations of the Ghost Festival ritual. There was a certain performance vocabulary that allowed us to transcend language,



culture, and religious beliefs and focus on ideas, images, and objects that were common to us all."

She continued, "Seeing the broad range of 'performances' among the five different groups at the end of the workshop was a rich experience, which was heightened by the strong connection we had all made to the Festival and to other individual artists in the group. It left me with a renewed energy and vision. I'm hoping this kind of international workshop will be considered in other venues as a way to open up ideas and exchanges between not only theatre artists, but to other media artists as well."

[To Top](#) 