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As a tribute to the city, the Duke Energy Convention Center uses its lights to spell out Cincinnati. The newly-refurbished space, near the banks of the Ohio River, will be the setting for USITT's 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo from March 18 to 21, 2009. Professional Development Workshops, including USITT's Electrical Workshop and Designing & Rigging for Flying Effects, will be held March 15 to 17.

To learn more about the Conference and its many special events, [click here](#). To read more about the Duke, [click here](#).

Photo/Courtesy Duke Energy Convention Center



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Paul Vincent, right, was inducted as a USITT Fellow in 2004 at a ceremony held as part of the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Long Beach, California. Richard Arnold, former USITT President and Fellow, congratulates him on the honor.

Photo/USITT Archives

Paul Vincent to Receive USITT's DeGaetani Award

Barbara E.R. Lucas
Sightlines *Editor*

Paul Vincent, a stalwart of the performing arts community in Ohio, will be honored with the Thomas DeGaetani Award when USITT opens its 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio March 18.

Mr. Vincent, president of Vincent Lighting Systems, will be recognized for his outstanding service. The DeGaetani Award, named in honor of USITT's first president, is given to honor a lifetime contribution to the performing arts community in a particular region of the country. The presentation will take place at 10 a.m. in the Duke Energy Convention Center as part of the Keynote, Annual Meeting, and Conference Kickoff.

Mr. Vincent and Vincent Lighting have been strong supporters of USITT for many years on both the regional and national level, including more than 30 years as a Contributing member of the organization. He is very active in the Ohio Valley Regional Section and has also encouraged the involvement of his staff. In 2004, Mr. Vincent joined a very select and esteemed group when he was named a Fellow of USITT.

Mr. Vincent's roots in the industry run deep. He received a master's degree in lighting design from the University of Cincinnati and then was immersed in theatre, television,

and architectural lighting as a representative for equipment manufacturers. In the early 1970s, he was the convention manager for Kliegl Brothers. Later, he served as Midwest Sales Manager for Colortran and then oversaw eastern operations for Strand Lighting.

In 1978, he founded his own company, then called Paul Vincent Associates. That company has grown into a significant supplier of lighting sales, rentals, and service with offices in Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh.

Mr. Vincent served as President of Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA) as it transitioned from the Theatrical Dealers Association, and has served as chair of the ESTA Technical Standards Committee, to give just a few examples of his continuing support of safety and improved standards within the industry.

The DeGaetani award is just the latest recognition for Mr. Vincent. In 1999 he received the Eva Swan Award from ESTA, and he was inducted into the Ohio Educational Theatre Association in 2005.

Mr. Vincent and his wife, Kathy, have three adult children: Karena, Kevin, and Leah who are "scattered throughout the country" giving him a great reason to travel. He also enjoys sailing and scuba diving and has a well-documented love of ice cream which he will have the opportunity to indulge at the many providers of frozen treats in Cincinnati.

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Dressed Named Golden Pen Winner

Martha Marking
Co-Chair, Golden Pen Committee

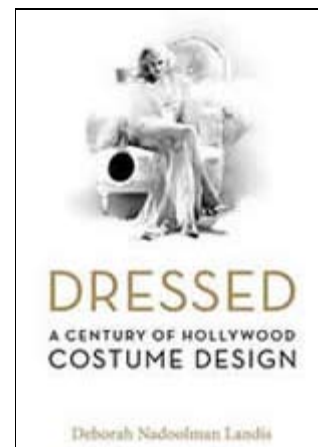
USITT's 2009 Golden Pen award will be presented to Deborah Nadoolman Landis, author of *Dressed: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design* (Harper Collins, 2007).

Ms. Nadoolman Landis has been invited to the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, March 18 to 21, where a book signing has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 20. A Conference session also will be held 10 a.m. on Friday, March 20 to discuss this book and Ms. Nadoolman Landis' work. Martha Marking and Michael Monsos, co-chairs of USITT's Golden Pen selection sub-committee, will moderate.

The nominator said this book, by an Academy Award-nominated author, "is full of evocative, original designs and beautiful photographs. Her stories are terrific and reveal what an insider would be able to tell the world. The book is a treasure. Among the important features are information about the development of the profession of costume design in the movies, the methods of collaboration within the film industry, and numerous illustrations."

Golden Pen Committee members agreed. "This is an awesome collection of materials. It's beautifully illustrated, and I'd put it on my coffee table rather than on a research shelf. What strikes me most about the book are the many side-by-side comparisons of the renderings next to production photographs of the final costumes...The reader finds a wide range of personal perspectives from not only the designers and the depth of the styles and periods that were represented throughout the 100 years, but a commentary from the directors and actors who were affected by the designers' choices."

"The author's evaluation and selection of what was an overwhelming amount of material is astounding. The book is chock full of beautiful photographs and anecdotal information valuable to theatre and film history buffs alike. There is no other book that I am aware of that



USITT will honor *Dressed: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design* with its 2009 Golden Pen Award as part of the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

covers this particular topic and covers it so thoroughly and stunningly.”

The Golden Pen Subcommittee reviewed five excellent nominations for the 2008 award. The award is determined by a poll of the members of the Publications Committee and was ratified by the Board of Directors in October.

The Golden Pen Award is given annually to an author of an outstanding publication in the field of design and production for the performing arts that has been written within the previous three-year period. The Golden Pen has been presented annually since 1986. The criteria specifies that the work recognized is an outstanding example of one or more of the following: scholarly research and critical thinking, presentation of the work and methodology of exceptional practitioners for theatrical arts and/or crafts, and description of the methods, skills and technology involved in creating works of theatre and/or crafts.

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Discounts on Car Rentals

Michelle L. Smith

Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Your Hertz - USITT discount CDP# 0341930 is the key to great savings.



Go to the [Hertz web page](#) for reservations, services, and special offers. For phone reservations, call Hertz at 1-800-654-2200.

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

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

If you have questions or suggestions for a new benefit, contact Membership & Ad Sales Manager Michelle L. Smith at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or michelle@office.usitt.org.

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The USITT Nominations Committee is seeking names for the 2010 elections cycle. Find out more about the process, the positions that will be open, and deadlines by reading the story at left.

Call for Nominations

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell

Immediate Past President & Chair, Nominations Committee

USITT encourages all members to make nominations for the 2010 election slate and to take an active role in identifying the future leadership of the organization. This is especially critical as USITT moves into its next and exciting half-century.

Member nomination of candidates for the USITT 2010 slate of officers and Directors at Large will guide and inform the Nominations Committee in selecting effective future leadership for USITT and “securing the future” of our great organization.

Now is the time to nominate for the 2010 election cycle. Work is underway now to find candidates for positions on the USITT Board of Directors to take office July 1, 2010. These are the descriptions of the offices, and their duties from USITT's bylaws:

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the supervision of the finances of USITT. The Treasurer shall be a signatory on all USITT bank accounts. The Treasurer shall supervise the selection of banks, trust companies, and safe deposit boxes as may be required and recommend these locations for the placement of USITT funds to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall approve all USITT financial procedures and recommend financial policies for action by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer shall accept an annual audit of the books of

the corporation from a Certified Public Accountant and will present the audit to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall supervise the disbursement of funds in accordance with the budget as approved by the Board of directors.

The Treasurer shall review all grant requests submitted by the Corporation and all proposals made by the Corporation that include financial information of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee.

Vice-President for Communications

The Vice-President for Communications shall be responsible for all publications for the Institute and any advertising that may appear in any of such publications.

Vice-President for Programming

The Vice-President for Programming shall be responsible for programming at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo and such other major activities, which occur at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

The Vice-President for Programming shall be an ex officio member of the Awards & Resolutions Committee.

Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters

The Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters shall be the officer responsible for the areas of membership, member services general coordination of the regional sections and the student chapters. This shall include the membership recruitment, retention, recognition and reporting.

The Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters shall chair the Membership Committee, and coordinate with Regional Chairs, Student Liaison and Tech Olympics Committees. The Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters shall be an ex officio member of the Publications Committees.

Vice-President for Special Operations

The Vice-President for Special Operations shall be responsible for Design Expo and the Technical Exposition as well as other special exhibitions at the Annual Conference. The Vice-President for Special Operations will also be responsible for the contracting of the Conference decorator.

All officers serve two year terms. Directors at Large serve three year terms.

Directors at Large

Directors at Large are responsible for representing the Membership in all decisions made by the Board of Directors. They shall be members in good standing of the Institute and a Regional Section for all the time they serve. They are expected to attend all Board meetings. Each member of the Board of Directors shall serve as a

member of an Institute committee, or be a Commissioner or Vice-Commissioner. There are 18 Directors at Large, six to be elected each year.

Please complete the **2010 Election Nomination Form**, which can be found by [clicking here](#). Once all names and information has been collected, the committee will work to develop a slate of one or two individuals for each office and up to 12 potential Directors at Large. This slate will then be presented and voted on by the membership.

To allow a full review by the Nominations Committee, forms are due by March 1, 2009.

Because USITT is a membership organization, it is up to members to help encourage future leaders to become part of the board. Members are strongly encouraged to consider self-nomination if they are interested in serving the Institute in any of these capacities.

Think about fellow members who are known to be talented, qualified leaders capable of fulfilling the positions open for election and submit a nomination on their behalf.

Just as on the national scene, USITT welcomes the prospect of identifying emerging new leaders.

Questions or suggestions regarding this process may be addressed to any member of the Nominations Committee. The committee roster may be found [here](#).

As chair of the committee, Sylvia Hillyard Pannell is also eager to answer questions or assist in the process.

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Vote Now in USITT 2009 Elections

Electronic balloting is underway through January 9 in the USITT election process. Any member voting via a paper ballot must have their ballots back to the USITT office by that date. The USITT Committee on Nominations has presented the candidates for election to serve on the Board of Directors. Any USITT members current as of noon, Eastern Standard Time on November 21, 2008 are eligible to vote.

Members can access on-line voting from USITT's home page by clicking on the "VOTE" button or by using the link [here](#). For members who prefer not to vote electronically, paper ballots are available. Please contact Shannan Hoerger at shannan@office.usitt.org or call 315-463-6463 x 101.

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Still Time to Sign up for Arizona Training

The registration deadline for the Desert TECH Days at Arizona State has been extended to January 7, 2009. Rigging, Electrical, and Projection Training Sessions sponsored by The ESTA Foundation and USITT will be held at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona from Wednesday, January 14 to Friday, January 16. The event is will be hosted and co-produced by the Herberger College School of Theatre & Film in association with Desert States Section of USITT. The three-day schedule of courses is designed to help basic to intermediate level technicians advance their professional proficiency.

The Electrical and Rigging sessions will be taught by ETCP Certified Trainers, Richard Cadena and Jay Glerum. The Projections session will be conducted by Jacob Pinholster of Arizona State University and Eric Ludacer of Cirque du Soleil. A fourth "bonus" day on Saturday, January 17, is available to all those who sign up and will offer informal portfolio reviews, a GAM Color Workshop, and discussions of employment opportunities available in the entertainment industry. For additional information, contact Frank Stewart at fstewart@estafoundation.org

For full course descriptions or to download an registration form, please [click here](#).

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This month:
Election 2009

 Training Deadline
Extended

 World Stage Design
2009

Apply Now for WSD 2009

World Stage Design 2009, which will be held September 19 to 30 in Seoul, South Korea is beginning to accept applications online via its website at www.wsd2009.kr.

The site is still being revised, so anyone who experiences difficulties is urged to check the site again in mid-January. Deadline for the digital exhibition is February 15, 2009. WSD2009 organizers are looking forward to receiving entries from designers all over the world.

WSD had its debut in conjunction with the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Toronto in 2005. For 2009, WSD will consist of three different exhibitions: digital, gallery and showcase. The Digital Exhibition will display all works submitted; the Gallery Exhibition will present realized works of designers selected by the WSD jury. Participants for the Showcase Exhibition will be 12 production teams working on selected scenes from Oscar Wilde's *Selfish Giant*.

There is a \$100 entry fee for the Digital Exhibition which can be set, costume, lighting, or sound design. Participants will be asked to upload digital files during the online application process. Those with questions about the process should contact SungChul Kim at schkim517@kornet.net

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Wholehog 3 Training Slated

The Joint Training Initiative of USITT and The ESTA Foundation will hold a Wholehog 3 Console Training Session February 17 and 18 at High End Systems – Media and Entertainment Division of Barco Lighting Systems, Inc. in Van Nuys, California.

This two-day course is designed for entertainment technicians and console programmers at a basic to intermediate level. The session is available only to ESTA and USITT members.

The course will be conducted by Cat West, training specialist for High End Systems.

Attendees should have prior experience with automated luminaires and a general familiarity with lighting consoles. Wholehog experience is not necessary. In addition, they should have working knowledge of the DMX 512 communication protocol, fixture addressing, and patching.

The course description, fee and registration form are available at:

www.estafoundation.org/seminars/schedule.php. For additional information contact fstewart@estafoundation.org.

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Popiel to Head NYC Section

We congratulate Elizabeth Popiel as the new chair of the New York City Regional Section of USITT. Ms. Popiel steps into the position because of the resignation of Jim Streeter, who had headed the section.

While the USITT office will miss working with Mr. Streeter, we look forward to Ms. Popiel's new ideas.

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Order Cincy Food Now

USITT offers a wide variety of food and beverages for all types of events at the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Catered functions are easy to arrange; just contact Tracy Davis at the USITT office at 800-938-7488, extension 105, or email tracy@office.usitt.org. She will provide menus and coordinate catering orders with the conference hotel and the Duke Energy Convention Center.

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Wins USITT Conference Registration

Congratulations are also in order for Martin Gimenez of CalArts who won the drawing held after LDI for a Free Full Conference Registration of the 2009 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio. We look forward to seeing Mr. Gimenez when USITT visits the Queen City on March 18 to 21, 2009.

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Bookmark Training Calendar

There's a new place where it is easy to see what training is being offered. The ESTA Foundation/USITT Joint Training Initiative has an online calendar of industry training events available [here](#). This is an attempt to offer "one stop shopping" for those interested in entertainment industry related training. To ask to have training sessions added, e-mail Frank Stewart at fstewart@estafoundation.org.

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Elizabeth Popiel

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LDI Winner

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Vortek Gains ETL Certification

Vortek, a division of Daktronics, hoists and controls have gained ETL certification after completing extensive and rigorous testing. Vortek's products are approved by ETL to comply with several UL standards.

For additional information, visit the company's [website](#), e-mail sales@vortekrigging.com, or call 1-866-4VORTEK.

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Creative Team Achieves Certification

Creative Stage Lighting announced the latest success in expanded employee education. CSL Dealer Sales Managers Rick Fallon, John Ebert, and Seth Scott have achieved Philips Color Kinetics Certifications. Their certifications demonstrate their knowledge and expertise of Philips Color Kinetics products and technology. To learn more about the company, [click here](#).

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PRG Wins LDI Product Award

At the LDI 2008 tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Nila Lighting System won a prestigious Debuting Product Award, Lighting.

The Nila Lighting System is manufactured by Nila, Inc. and distributed for sales and rentals exclusively by **PRG**. Nila is an easily configurable, modular solid-state light designed for film and television applications that raises the standard for environmental sustainability without sacrificing performance.



For more information on the Nila Lighting System, visit www.prg.com/market/tv-film/nila.

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Vortek, a division of Daktronics
Creative Stage Lighting
PRG



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Welcome NetherCraft

We welcome **NetherCraft** as a new Sustaining member of the Institute. The company specializes in creating original designs "inspired by the art and myths of vanished ages." Among its many products are Gothic architecture panels created in vacuform plastic.

To see the company's designs, available in a variety of media from plastic and fiberglass to bronze and alabaster, visit www.nethercraft.com. NetherCraft will also be exhibiting at Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio in March.

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Studio T&L LLC Upgrades

We appreciate the enhanced level of support from **Studio T&L LLC** which recently became a Sustaining member. Studio T+L provides collaborative, innovative theatre consulting services to architects and theatre owners. Jason Livingston, LC IES, is a Principal with the company and its representative to USITT.

To learn more about what Studio T & L LLC has to offer, visit them online at www.studio-tl.com.

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Wireless Solution Lights 'Big I'

W-DMX by **Wireless Solution** is a critical component in the beautification of New Mexico's key Interstate interchange, the "Big-I," where Interstates 25 and 40 intersect. The Big-I landscaping project is the result of a combined



effort between the state of New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque. Landscape lighting is one part of the \$10 million project to beautify the interchange located at the heart of Albuquerque. Distributors **TMB** supplied the W-DMX equipment to Resource Lighting, the lighting manufacturer's representative.

For more information about W-DMX and many other products distributed by TMB, visit www.tmb.com.

This month:

NetherCraft

Studio T&L LLC

Wireless Solution

Wybron

Serapid, Inc.

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Wybron at Sea on Cruise Ships

Cruise ships offer a taste of the good life – sipping margaritas by the pool, exploring exotic ports of call, dining on tasty cuisine.

But on *Independence of the Seas*, the newest and biggest ship in the Royal Caribbean fleet, the voyages aren't so relaxing for the ship's lighting techs, who work seven days a week to



dazzle guests with exciting live shows. Enter **Wybron's** Infogate, the feedback software that lightens the workload by monitoring and troubleshooting an entire rig. As part of Wybron's Infotrace feedback system, Infogate enables lighting equipment on board *Independence of the Seas* to talk back to its operators using the industry-standard, two-way communication protocol Remote Device Management, or RDM. It constantly monitors the equipment, keeping an eye on any problems or maintenance issues.

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Serapid Showcased in Paris

Serapid, Inc., a supplier of stage and orchestra as well as scenery transfer systems for the entertainment industry, showcased its award-winning products at the JTSE Show in Paris November 25 and 26.

Serapid's LinkLift and horizontal motion systems provide simple solutions to many of the common challenges associated with stage engineering. The LinkLift, which was recently seen during the 2008 Olympic Opening Ceremonies in Beijing, accommodates high trim lifting applications quietly, smoothly and safely. Serapid's horizontal motion systems feature high transfer speeds and extremely low noise levels.

Serapid's systems have been installed in renowned theatre and show venues all over the world, including the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, the Dome Theatre in the United Kingdom, and the Gaveau Hall in Paris. Leading cruise lines like Princess, Norwegian, and Royal Caribbean also have Serapid systems on board.

For more information about Serapid, call 586-274-0774, e-mail info-us@serapid.com, or visit www.serapid.com.

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Whether the trees outside your windows are snow-covered and bare or leafy and green, the new year is an opportunity to look forward with anticipation for all that is in our future.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

2009: A New Beginning

Carl Lefko
USITT President

During this holiday season, I hope that everyone will, as my mother used to say, "Take time to smell the roses."

While it may be cold, windy, and dreary during these short winter days, it is nevertheless the best time to snuggle up to a warm cozy fire with our family and loved ones. It is an opportunity to spend time together, chat, and above all reconnect.

The white blanket of snow (for everyone in the cold country) can be seen as a metaphor for cleansing and new beginning. While new plant growth is stymied waiting for springtime and warmer weather, we must begin planning for those days when the crocuses and daffodils are poking their heads above ground. Enough about springtime, now let's get back to the cozy fire.

This is the moment to reinforce the New Year and the resolutions that come with great intentions. In this unsettling time, with the seemly ever-present fears of terrorism, unemployment, and the roller coasters of gas prices and stock markets, it is important to take time to reflect on the things we value the most.

I am sure that everyone has much to be thankful for, yet somehow we find ourselves too busy chasing our tails to actually count the blessings we have. It is too easy to get caught up in the things that are not working, or which throw our daily routines into confusion. We must

remember to take time to do things that make us laugh.

Stop long enough to reach out to those friends and colleagues that you have developed over the years. At USITT our work together often resembles a closely connected family. The relationships we build over a lifetime of professional activities present an excellent resource for each of us. Picking up the phone and calling a colleague or friend can be the best recipe for discovering a new path to that one illusive answer that has been just out of reach.

As we at USITT look toward our 50th celebration, it is a great time for the Institute to explore a new beginning. While we look to the new year and the next 50 years for USITT, it is my sincere hope that we are successful as we build on our current solid foundation and not only envision, but most importantly create a secure structure for a new generation and our next 50 years.

Together we will reach the dreams that were only a fleeting thought yesterday.

Here is to a successful 2009! Cheers to all!

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Sign Up Early for Portfolio Reviews

Ann Cadaret

Scene Design Commission

Want some feedback on your portfolio? Then schedule a portfolio review as part of the Cincinnati 2009 Conference & Stage Expo.

USITT Commissions sponsor portfolio reviews for members to meet individually with professionals from their fields. It can be tremendously helpful to have new “eyes” assist in the ever-subjective arena of portfolios. Whether considering career choices, changes, or entry in a specific field, this is a great opportunity to discuss portfolio content, presentation, and resume.

It's easy to sign up and should be done prior to the Conference as review time slots are limited. It's best to sign up before March 1. From the Conference home page, go to Conference Opportunities and then Portfolio Reviews for all pertinent information and the correct person to whom information should be sent, or [click here](#). Any professionals interested in reviewing portfolios also can use these links to volunteer.

For those with digital portfolios, remember to bring a laptop and necessary software. No computers or online access available for portfolio reviews.



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Costume Commission to Offer Portfolio Reviews

Rafael Jaen
Costume Design & Technology Portfolio Review Chair

The Portfolio Reviews at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo are truly valuable sessions that can assist a designer/technician in many aspects. Commissions have review sessions where professionals in specific fields volunteer to offer productive feedback to participants. In past Conferences, close to 50 review sessions were organized for Costume Design & Technology Commission members alone.

This year, Rafael Jaen will head the Costume Design & Technology Commission's portfolio reviews. The Commission highly encourages all participants of the 2009 Cincinnati Conference & Stage Expo to share in the excitement of these sessions.

Volunteering as a reviewer can be quite inspiring and helpful to both the interviewee and the mentor. Having the courage to get a critique from professionals in the field can be of great value for the young designer/technician in building self-confidence and setting next steps.

For more information or to sign up, contact Rafael Jaen at Rafael_Jaen@emerson.edu.


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USITT Electrical Workshop participants in Phoenix, Arizona had a chance for a bit of fresh air as well as an in-depth look at the equipment. Mitch Hefter, who led the Phoenix PDW will again be on hand for the Basic/Intermediate PDW in 2009.

Photo/Mitch Hefter

PDWs in 2009 Offer Information & Training

Barbara E.R. Lucas

Sightlines Editor

Professional Development Workshops, offered before the start of the 2009 Annual Conference, have been balanced to offer a wide variety of training, information, and hands-on experiences. These extra-cost workshops allow greater exploration of a topic than would be possible during a Conference session. To learn more about all PDWs, [click here](#).

Two PDWs, **USITT Electrical Workshop - Basic/Intermediate** on Monday evening and all day Tuesday, and **Stage Rigging with Jay O. Glerum**, all day Monday and Tuesday, may be used to gain ETCP Renewal Credits for certified electricians or riggers.

USITT Electrical Workshop - Basic/Intermediate covers many items in the ETCP Electrician Candidate Handbook outline. It will explain the basics of entertainment electrical systems, including an overview of the National Electrical Code® and NFPA 70E: Standard for Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces.

The presenters, drawn from all segments of the entertainment industry, are members of ESTA's Technical Standards Program and serve on industry standards committees. Several are ETCP Recognized Electrical Trainers.

Stage Rigging with Jay O. Glerum features Mr. Glerum, author of *Stage Rigging Handbook* and an approved trainer for ETCP renewal credits, covering the physics of rigging, hardware design and selection, operation and procedures, and inspections and maintenance practices. Each student must have a copy of the *Stage Rigging Handbook*, Third Edition which is available from the USITT web site or by calling 800-938-7488.

The first PDW starts on Sunday, March 15 when Ben Sammler presents **Structural Design for the Stage**, which covers the first five chapters of his *Structural Design for the Stage*, a text co-authored with Alys Holden. Technical directors of resident performance companies and academic institutions will leave with the tools needed to design wooden beams as well as the background for further study in structural design.

For a more hands-on approach, **Designing and Rigging Simple Performer Flying Effects** will start in the classroom for a section on the physics and principles of rigging simple performer flying systems, while the 'hands-on' section will allow participants to actually rig many of these systems and see firsthand how they work. Other topics will include equipment vendors, choreography, and working with a professional flying effects company.

Rosetta Stone Studios, based in Cincinnati, will be the setting for **New Methods, New Audiences: Building Patron Relationships Through Multimedia Marketing** on Tuesday, March 17. The high-energy multimedia presentation on High Tech Multimedia Marketing comes with case studies, research, on-screen examples, video, Q&A, and useful take-away materials. This is the place to learn about blogging, YouTube, social networking, podcasts, videos on the web, multimedia DVDs, and more. Learn how to take advantage of a full portfolio of multimedia tools to build and maintain relationships with audience members and donors. Organizers say this session is highly recommended for marketing and development staff, executive directors and general managers, membership and audience services managers, as well as any manager, designer, or technician who may be interested in the creation and implementation of new media technology.

Photographing your Lighting Design, chaired by Richard Finkelstein who has created stunning photos of the Prague Quadrennial as well as numerous USITT Conferences and other events, will lead participants as they learn tips and tricks for photographing lighting designs. The first step is getting the image into the camera by shooting under stage conditions at a venue, and then the work flow process needed to get the image processed for prints and for the web will be covered extensively.

A very specialized workshop, **Now You See It, Now You Don't: Painting with UV Sensitive Pigment**, will guide people through a project using ultraviolet sensitive pigment. The process allows artists to view projects under UV light while painting, and at the conclusion of the day-long session. Results are expected to go on display after the workshop. Possible paints include Wildfire, Rosco invisible, clear, and/or neon.

To sign up for any of these PDWs, visit www.usitt.org/cincy and click on the registration link, or call 800-938-7488, extension 101.

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"A Stretch of Imagination" designed by Clary Salandy, Mohogany Arts Ltd., for Notting Hill Carnival 2005 is an example of the type of design which will be part of a Special Exhibit at the 2009 Stage Expo.

Photo/Courtesy Notting Hill Carnival

Special Exhibits Highlight Annual Conference

Daniel Denhart

Vice-President for Special Operations

Cincinnati will be the place to be to view the exciting design and technology Special Exhibits being planned for the 2009 USITT Conference & Stage Expo this March.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to view the bi-annual **Tech Expo** Exhibit and see for themselves what technologists have been tinkering with lately. This is always a fascinating exhibition of ingenuity and creative production problem solving. This year also will feature the bi-annual **Cover the Walls** design exhibition. Cover the Walls traditionally serves as a less formal, non-adjudicated presentation of the design work that membership submits for viewing. Many treasures can be found in Cover the Walls.

The **USITT Art Auction** is an exhibit event that happens every three years, and it will be part of the Annual Conference & Stage Expo in 2009. View the artwork that is being auctioned and place bids; the proceeds of this event support the Edward F. Kook fund which provides resources for USITT grants and fellowships. This is a great way to help fulfill one of the important missions of the Institute.

The Architecture Commission again will mount the **Architecture Exhibit** highlighting award winners from several categories, particularly showcasing student design entries.

Highlights of Regional Section exhibits will include two submissions from the Ohio State University as well as an exhibition celebrating regional theater design being planned by the Tony Award-winning Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. The Ohio Valley section will also exhibit the winning design and technology entries from this year's Peggy Ezekiel Award adjudicated competition named after Peggy Ezekiel, one of four founding members of what has grown to become the Ohio Valley Regional Section. She was instrumental in obtaining a charter from USITT National for the Ohio region.

An in-depth exhibit, **From Russia with Love; a look at One Man's Influence on North American Theatre**, examines the design and teaching career of Larry Kaushansky. The exhibit is being presented by former SIUE students of Mr. Kaushansky and is intended to draw lineages with regard to ways in which his aesthetic has continued to influence the work of his students and former students' careers. This exhibit offers a family tree of design.

The first exhibit being mounted by Ohio State University is entitled **Designs for Performance** offering samples of theatrical design artwork drawn from the treasures of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Research Institute at Ohio State University. Through their set and lighting work, designers make the onstage world real. They welcome audiences to a familiar place or introduce an entirely new experience, creating places and times that exist in imagination. While the design reaches its final form in performance, documentation of design work is a reminder of the ephemeral performance and a record of the design process. The Design for Performance exhibit features many forms of this documentation including set and scenic detail designs, scenic projection design, samples of scenic models, and photographic documentation of realized production work. The media and techniques used by the designers are as varied as their artistic approaches.

Master designers included in this exhibit are among those who have greatly influenced the development of American stage design. The Design for Performance exhibit provides a glimpse of this continually growing design collection demonstrating its value as a rich resource for students, faculty, and theater scholars engaged in research.

OSU's second exhibition entitled **Selections from Midnight Robbers: the Artists of Notting Hill Carnival** explores the Midnight Robber character which seeks to provoke and engage audiences and underscores the

representative cultural strategies that colonized people employed in carnival. Much of Carnival's nature, both as popular Caribbean celebration and resistance art, derives from the historic situation of colonization and slavery and the social and political relations inherent in it.



The Raven, designed by Ali Pretty for *Flight*, Notting Hill Carnival 1999.

This exhibition will focus on the London Notting Hill Carnival, the largest and most spectacular street performance in Europe, marking the bicentennial cessation of slave trading in the British colonies. The Carnival began in London in 1959, and this exhibit will be mounted in a timely manner to recognize and celebrate its 50th anniversary.

When first mounted in the United States in 2007, this was the first exhibition of its kind in Europe and North America on Notting Hill Carnival, giving the work an alternative viewing venue off the streets. A unique aspect of the exhibition is its articulation of artistic process -- the creating, developing and making of costumes which are central to the carnival experience. The exhibit will reference a selection of carnival artists, focusing on the process from theme development to realization. The exhibit promises to animate and achieve the nature of carnival through video projections and audio presentation. Ohio State University has created an interactive program to accompany this exhibit.

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The Grand Ballroom of the Duke Energy Convention Center is a treat for the eye in a setting which overlooks the Ohio River. The ballroom will be the site of USITT's Keynote, Kickoff and Annual Meeting in March. Other events scheduled in the room include the Fellows Address and New Products Showcase.

Photo/Courtesy Duke Energy Convention Center

Special Features Enhance Cincy Convention Center

Kathie Brookfield

Cincinnati Promotions Coordinator

When participants of the 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo arrive at Cincinnati's Duke Energy Convention Center to pick up their registration materials, they will find a vibrant building which recently underwent a dramatic redesign. The interior public spaces are bright and airy, with window walls and high ceilings.

Registration will be in the first floor lobby adjacent to Fifth and Elm streets, which is just outside the doors leading to Stage Expo and just steps away from the second floor meeting rooms to be used for sessions and panel discussions.

In case of inclement weather, sky bridges connect the Convention Center with all three USITT hotels and several nearby parking garages.

USITT also will be holding events in the Duke Energy Convention Center's Grand Ballroom,

**Duke Energy
Convention Center**

the largest space in downtown Cincinnati and billed as one of the largest in the Midwest. Visitors will have several opportunities to enjoy the Grand Ballroom, as it will be the site of the D. Lynn Meyer's Keynote address,

the Opening Night party, plus the All Conference Reception, Fellows Address, Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts, and the New Products Showcase.

The dramatic spaces outside the ballroom include views overlooking the Ohio River, the Cincinnati skyline, and interior views of the first two floors of the Convention Center.

An unusual feature of the Duke Energy Convention Center is an interior bridge which provides a fast connection between the north and south meeting rooms on the second floor. Its glass walls provide a bird's eye view into the space where Stage Expo will be held. Blue carpets help remind visitors they are on the "river" side of the complex, too.

Those who have already registered for the Conference will be able to pick up badges and programs from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17. On-site registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18.

For more information and online registration, [click here](#). A complete list of sessions can be found [here](#).

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Opening Night at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo always draws a crowd. Old friends, new contacts, and a delightful setting create a great end for the first full day of the Conference.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Sponsored Events at Cincy Conference

Michelle L. Smith

Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Those planning on being at the 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati this March, should make sure to take advantage of some of the exciting events and services made possible by generous sponsors.

Experienced conference-goers know that Opening Night is an event not to be missed. This informal reception allows attendees to connect with one another before the busy week gets away from them. Join in the fun Wednesday night in the ballroom at the Duke Energy Convention Center for hors d'oeuvres and conversation. The hors d'oeuvres will be provided compliments of our generous sponsors: **A V Pro, Inc.**; **ETC**; **SECOA**; and **Texas Scenic Company**. One more sponsorship is available for this long-running, well-attended event.

Busy attendees always appreciate having a place where they can check their e-mail and surf the web. Five Cyber Cafés, kiosks outfitted with computers and internet connections, will be located throughout Stage Expo for attendee's convenience ([click here](#) to view a map). Two cafés are already sponsored courtesy of **City Theatrical, Inc.** and **Live Design Magazine**. Three cafés remain available for the company or school looking for a unique promotional opportunity.

Also receiving sponsorship support this year is [Tech Expo](#) - a biennial showcase of creative solutions to common production problems. Past Tech Expos have included intriguingly titled projects such as “Low-Volume Rain,” “A Weeping Window Effect,” and “God of Hell Sparkers.” This event is made possible by its sponsors: **Creative Conners, Inc.**; **University of Delaware**; **GAMPRODUCTS**; **Ohio State University**; **RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.**, and **James Thomas Engineering**. This fun and interesting exhibit can accommodate two more sponsors.

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

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- Strong Entertainment Lighting
- Studio T+L LLC
- University of Texas Performing Arts Center
- Theatre Arts Video Library
- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Thematics
- Thern Inc.
- Thinkwell Design & Productions
- 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.

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Who Are These People Called 'Fellows'?

Randy Earle
Chair, USITT Fellows

It was on one of those long elevator rides in Houston when we seemed to stop at every floor when a USITT student member asked, "What does that purple ribbon with the word Fellow mean?" I think many Fellows assume everyone knows the answer, but obviously this is not the case. As we approach another Annual Conference, I thought it would be appropriate to explain a little more about the men and women you'll see with purple ribbons and small lapel pins that identify them as Fellows.

First the numbers: there are currently 72 Fellows, and we have 33 Fellows "In Memoriam." USITT By-laws permit 2.5% of the membership (excluding Organizational, Contributing, and Sustaining members) as the maximum number of Fellows at any one time. In the 2009 year, we may elect up to five new Fellows depending on a vote by the current body.

To be considered for nomination and election as a Fellow, individuals must be current members of the Institute. Additionally, Fellows must exhibit a record of service to Regional Sections, Commissions, committees and/or conferences. Previous leadership activity and contributions to the ongoing regional and national levels of USITT is expected of a Fellow.

The final expectation of each Fellow is significant professional activity and accomplishment in the entertainment design and technology field. The men and women who are Fellows have professional careers as

USITT's Fellows gather for a photograph before the start of their business meeting at the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas. Fellows serve an important role in the Institute.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

architects, designers, consultants, educators, managers, manufacturers, retailers, technicians and, most importantly, leaders. Many have worked in more than one sector of the entertainment industry.

After becoming a Fellow, many individuals continue to contribute their personal time, energy, and resources to critical Institute projects. Dick Durst and Larry Hill created the USITT@50 development campaign and many lead donors are Fellows. The history of USITT's first 50 years is being written by Rick Stephens. USITT's very successful international work is in the able hands of Leon Brauner and Sandy Bonds. Tim Kelly continues to develop the Grants & Fellowships program each year with expanded funding and creative fundraising.

More than a dozen current national officers, directors and committee chairs are Fellows. The Fellows Address, Forum and Student Mentoring sessions remain key elements of our ongoing commitment to support outstanding annual Conferences.

To conclude, I hope this summary has been helpful to members in answering the question "What is a Fellow?" We all look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati this March!



Van Phillips, center, prepares to introduce Rick Thomas as a new USITT Fellow during the 2008 Annual Conference. The honor is bestowed on a limited number of USITT members, voted by the current Fellows, and is kept secret until the induction ceremony is underway.

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