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Designs by Ming-Yen Ho, such as the illustration above, impressed the adjudicators for the USITT Makeup Design Award sponsored by Kryolan. The honor, one of ten Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts, will be presented on Thursday evening, March 19, as part of the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

To learn more about Ms. Ho and other YD&T winners, [click here](#).

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas



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Savoie to Receive Rising Star Award

Sean Savoie, a very talented young lighting and scenic designer, will receive the 2009 Rising Star Award sponsored by LDI2009 and *Live Design* Magazine at the USITT Annual Conference and Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

His current work as a lighting designer for dance and theatre productions has been described as "positively remarkable: subtle, daring, technically impeccable, innovative, and captivating" by Robert Henke, chair of the performing arts department and professor of drama and comparative literature at Washington University.



His nominator and friend, Andrew Hungerford, says this about Mr. Savoie: "He's the kind of designer with whom people love to collaborate. He's friendly and easygoing even when time and money are tight. He always brings innovative ideas to the table. And he has an attention to detail that means the work will always be the best it possibly can, even in low budget or tiny spaces."

David Johnson, associate publisher and editorial director of *Live Design*, notes, "We are

Designs by Sean Savoie, winner of USITT's 2009 Rising Star award sponsored by *Live Design* LDI show how the relationship of Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb as they set an abandoned warehouse on fire in *Thrill Me: The Leopold & Loeb Story*. Mr. Savoie created both the scenic and lighting design for the production.

extremely pleased that Mr. Savoie is this year's winner of the USITT Rising Star Award. He comes highly recommended and is definitely a young designer to watch. And in keeping with the strong lighting component of this year's USITT conference, with the tribute to Jules Fisher, it seems fitting that this year's Rising Star is a young lighting designer."

The Rising Star award recognizes excellence and artistic achievement in the areas of scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design, or the convergence of these design disciplines. This is the fifth year for the Rising Star Award which is given at the beginning of a career to a young designer in the first four years of professional (non-academic) work, following the completion of their highest degree.

Mr. Savoie joins past award winners: scenic designer Kelly Hanson (2005); scenic, lighting, and sound designer Justin Townsend (2006); lighting designer John Horan (2007); and sound designer Elisheba Ittoop (2008).

Mr. Savoie currently serves as resident lighting designer and production manager at Washington University, as well as production manager for the St. Louis Muny. He received his MFA in lighting design and technology from the University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music. His background includes architectural lighting and design firms King Lighting, Inc., in Covington, Kentucky and Visions in Light of Cincinnati.

Adjudicators for the Rising Star Award included Elaine Williams of Bucknell University; Rich Dunham of the University of Georgia, and Bill Brewer, of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

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The exuberant art deco interior of The Martin Woldson Theatre at the Fox, in Spokane, Washington, caught the attention of the adjudicators during the 2009 USITT Architecture Awards process. The Martin Woldson Theatre at the Fox will receive one of two Honor Awards during the 49th Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

USITT Architecture Award Honors Five Outstanding Theatres

Two projects have been selected to receive USITT's highest award for architecture and three will receive Merit Awards.

Honor Awards will be given to The Norwegian National Opera and Ballet, in Oslo, Norway and The Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox in Spokane, Washington as part of the USITT Architecture Awards. California State University Fullerton Performing Arts Center, Fullerton, California; Charles R. Walgreen, Jr. Drama Center & Arthur Miller Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan; and the Mesa Arts Center, Mesa, Arizona, will be acknowledged with Merit Awards. All five awards will be presented at the banquet which concludes the 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio in March.

Forty projects were submitted for consideration for the 2009 awards. The competition drew entries from 19 states, the United Kingdom, and Norway. To be considered, construction must have been completed after January 1, 1998. Projects could be either new construction or renovation. All projects were evaluated on creativity, contextual resonance, functional operation, exploration of new technologies, and community contribution.

A special session will be held 12:15 to 1:35 p.m. on Friday, March 20 for the annual review of all submissions, including the winning projects.

Complete information about the Honor Award winners:

- **The Norwegian National Opera and Ballet,**
Oslo, Norway
 Owner: The Norwegian Governmental Building Agency (Statsbygg)
 Architect: Snøhetta AS
 Theatre Consultants: Theatre Projects Consultants
 Acoustical Consultants: Brekke & Strand Akustikk AS, Arup Acoustics.
- **The Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox**
Spokane, Washington
 Owner: the Spokane Symphony
 Architecture: NAC|Architecture
 Theatre Consultant: Cosler Theatre Design
 Acoustical Consultant: JaffeHolden Acoustics

Complete information about the Merit Award winners:

- **California State University Fullerton Performing Arts Center**

Fullerton, California

Owner: California State University Fullerton, California

Architect: Pfeiffer Partners Architects

Theatre Consultant: Landry & Bogan

Acoustical Consultant: Mark Rothermel, Rothermel Acoustics with McKay Conant Brook

- **Charles R. Walgreen, Jr. Drama Center & Arthur Miller Theatre**

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Owner : University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Architect: Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects

Theatre Consultant: Theatre Projects Consultants

Acoustical Consultant: The Talaske Group Inc.

- **Mesa Arts Center**

Mesa, Arizona

Owner: Mesa Arts Center

Architect: BOORA Architects

Associate Architect: DWL Architects + Planners

Theatre Consultant: Auerbach Pollock Friedlander

Acoustical Consultant: McKay Conant Brook

The jurors for the 2009 USITT Architecture Awards included Architect Robert Campbell, a Pulitzer Prize winner, columnist, and author; Graham Gund, FAIA, president and founder of Gund Partnership, trustee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and member of the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows; and Benton Delinger, director of project management for Theatre Projects Consultants in Connecticut, former production manager for the San Jose Repertory and a founding member of the LORT Production Managers Forum.

Each of the award-winning projects will be featured at Stage Expo. After the Conference, the displays will be made available for exhibition at schools and other institutions across the United States.

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2009 YD&T Award Winners Announced

After a lengthy adjudication process, 10 outstanding young designers and technicians were selected from over 60 individuals nominated for USITT's Awards for Young Designer & Technicians in the Performing Arts. The winners will be honored during USITT's 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio in March.

Each award was recommended by jury members drawn from USITT's ranks along with representatives of the individuals and companies who sponsor the awards,

- **Mary Weber** of Indiana University is the winner of the KM Fabrics, Inc. Technical Production Award. Paul Brunner nominated Ms. Weber, who is scheduled to graduate in May. Fritz Schwentker, commented on Ms. Weber's "depth in the skills for technical director" and was "impressed with the depth and care which she takes toward the process." Mr. Brunner won the KM award in 2001.
- **Corrine Carrillo** will receive the Robert E. Cohen Sound Achievement Award. Vincent Olivieri nominated Ms. Carrillo, who is scheduled to graduate in June from the University of California, Irvine. One adjudicator describes her work as "very engaging and clearly indicates her capability to create what she envisions."
- **Catherine Girardi**, winner of the USITT Lighting Design Award sponsored by Barbizon, will be graduating from the University of Tennessee in May. Ms. Girardi was nominated by Kenton Yeager. Richard Dunham made this comment, "She has a gift for pulling the performers out from the rest of the stage and sculpting them within the space."
- **Arnond Bueso** will be honored with the USITT Scene Design Award sponsored by Rose Brand. Michael Lincoln nominated the Ohio University student who is scheduled to graduate in June. John Iacovelli praised Mr. Bueso's designs "as strong and shows a confident designer at work."
- **A. W. Nadine Grant**, a student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, was selected for the USITT Costume Design and Technology Award sponsored by Zelma H. Weisfeld. Ms. Grant who will receive her degree in May, was nominated by Cynthia Stofiel. Ms. Weisfeld based her decision on "excellent designs ...her philosophy and... presentation of a variety of produced works."
- **John McCullough** will receive the USITT Frederick A. Buerki Scenic Technology Award sponsored by Bernhard R. Works. John is a candidate for May graduation from the Yale School of Drama. Mr. McCullough was nominated by Ben Sammler who will be receiving the 2009 USITT Distinguished Achievement in Technical Production

Costume creations, such as that at left for *Boesman & Lena* impressed the adjudication panel and helped Nadine Grant to become the winner of the 2009 USITT Costume Design and Technology Award sponsored by Zelma H. Weisfeld.

Award. Mr. Sammler also nominated last year's winner in this category.

- **Ming-Yen Ho**, winner of the USITT Makeup Design Award sponsored by Kryolan, will graduate in May from the North Carolina School of the Arts. Nominated by Michael Meyer, Ms. Ho was noted as having a "very strong point of view with innovative imagery."
- **Ryan Wineinger** is the winner of the USITT W. Oren Parker Scene Design Award sponsored by Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc. The University of North Carolina School of the Arts student will graduate in May. Mr. Wineinger impressed adjudicators with his "highly evocative and dramatically powerful" designs. He was nominated by Frank Colavecchia who is receiving the 2009 USITT Distinguished Achievement in Scenic Design Award.
- **E.J. Wilson** is the recipient of the USITT Stage Management Award sponsored by Clear-Com. Emily Gill nominated Mr. Wilson, who will graduate in May from the University of Montavello. One adjudicator was impressed with Mr. Wilson's "amazing innate talent."
- **Andy Baker** will receive the USITT Undergraduate Lighting Design Award sponsored by Stage Technology. The candidate for May graduation from Obberbein College was nominated by Rob Johnson. Richard Dunham commented on Mr. Baker's "natural ability to see effective compositions in light."

The USITT Awards for Young Designers & Technicians in the Performing Arts will be presented at the All Conference Reception, Fellows Address, and Awards for Young Designers & Technicians, Thursday, March 19, 6:15 p.m., in the Duke Energy Convention Center's Grand Ballroom as part of USITT's 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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

Applications for the 2010 award will be available later in 2009.

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Registration Continues, Available in Cincy

USITT will keep its online registration process for the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio open until March 6. Online registration is available at www.usitt.org/cincy.

Those who decide to attend the Annual Conference & Stage Expo after the March 6 deadline may still register starting at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18 in the lobby of the Duke Energy Convention Center in Downtown Cincinnati.

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Date Shift for Stage Expo 2010

When USITT kicks off its 50th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in 2010, Wednesday will be the start of both the Conference and of Stage Expo. Opening both events on Wednesday will create even greater synergies for those attending and exhibiting during the anniversary event.

Because of its early start, Stage Expo will close on Friday afternoon, April 2 instead of the traditional Saturday conclusion.

Blockbuster programming and special events are already being planned for USITT's 50th gala which will open in Kansas City on Wednesday, March 31.

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Joint Training in Maryland

The Joint Training Initiative of the ESTA Foundation and USITT announces a new course, *Fall Protection and Rescue System Requirements and Methods*, to be taught in Bowie, Maryland.

There will be two opportunities to take this two-day course beginning the week of April 6. The first session will be held on April 6 and 7 and the second session will be held on April 8 and 9. Courses will combine both classroom and practical exercises and are designed for intermediate to advanced riggers. Topics covered will include OSHA and industry requirements, appropriate use and limitations of various systems, and useful climbing and rescue skills.

Sessions will be held at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, and will be conducted by Morgan Neff of Mine Safety Appliances (MSA), a Fall Protection and Rescue Trainer, and Rocky Paulson, an ETCP Certified Rigger and ETCP Recognized Trainer.

These sessions are limited in size. Registrations will be on a first come basis. Discounts are available to ESTA, USITT and IATSE members. Sessions will be hosted and co-produced by The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts and the USITT Chesapeake Regional Section.

Attendees should have prior rigging experience and at least a general familiarity with working at heights, safety harnesses, fall arrest devices, and basic first aid. In addition, they must provide their own safety gear including harness, hard hat and safety shoes.

Course descriptions, fees and the registration form are available [here](#).

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Long Reach Long Riders Announce Raffle
This month:

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Stage Expo 2010 Dates

Joint Training Workshop

Long Reach Long Riders

DMX 512 A

Disney Joins ETCP

SITA Winner

WSD Deadline Extended

The Long Reach Long Riders and the ESTA Foundation announce their annual raffle to benefit Behind the Scenes at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 21 at the Behind the Scenes booth (#1321). Tickets, which are \$5 each or five for \$20, may be purchased at the booth throughout the show.

Twelve prizes have been donated by: Altman Rentals (ghostlight), Barbizon (\$250 gift certificate), Field Template (SoftSymbols and Field Templates), Le Maitre Special Effects (Radiance Hazer), Live Design (Broadway Master Class), Nolan Engineering Services (seminar by Shawn Nolan), Sapsis Rigging (safety seminar by Bill Sapsis), USITT (2010 Conference registration), Utah Shakespearean Festival (three pair of theatre tickets), Vectorworks (spotlight with Renderworks), and Vincent Lighting Systems (\$250 gift certificate). Special thanks to USITT for making the Riders' presence possible.

In addition, Sapsis Rigging has stepped forward as a challenge grantor. The grant provides the opportunity for donors to double their contributions, while providing help to colleagues in a time of need.

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

All proceeds go directly to the ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes program, which provides entertainment technology industry members with grants for emergency situations, such as serious illness, injury or death. For more information about Behind the Scenes, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm. For more information about the Long Reach Long Riders, visit www.lrlr.org.

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New Edition of DMX512-A Now Available

ANSI E1.11 - 2008, Entertainment Technology - USITT DMX512-A, Asynchronous Serial Digital Data Transmission Standard for Controlling Lighting Equipment and Accessories is now available for purchase from the ESTA Foundation at www.estafoundation.org/pubs.htm. The list price is \$40; member and quantity discounts are available.

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Disney Theatrical Productions Join ETCP

Disney Theatrical Productions has accepted a seat on the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) Council. The Council is the governing body which manages the development and implementation of ETCP, the industry-wide certification program for entertainment technicians.

Canara Price, senior safety manager, physical production will represent Disney Theatrical Productions on the Council. Her colleagues John Tiggeloven, vice president of physical production – Disney Theatrical Productions; Joseph Mannetta, director of loss prevention and business continuity, corporate risk management; and Mark Elliot, director of safety, corporate risk management, will assist her.

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SITA Winner Named

Leigh Spencer Brown, an MFA candidate at University of Tennessee in Knoxville, will receive this year's Student International Travel Award. The award winner was announced by USITT's International Committee.

Funded by the Scripps International Fund, this award is offered in alternate years with the Member International Travel Award. Ms. Brown plans to attend the World Stage Design Exhibit and OISTAT World Congress meetings in Korea in September 2009.

She will participate in workshops with Henk van der Geest, noted lighting designer from the Netherlands and head of the OISTAT Lighting Design Working Group. In addition, while in Korea, she will continue to pursue her ongoing project of creating an Opera Design Database with information about opera designers and companies, as well as production managers, artistic directors, and directors – those who do the hiring and are in the position of helping and mentoring young designers and technicians.

The award will be presented at the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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WSD 2009 Deadline Extended

The WSD 2009 team has extended the deadline for online registration. The final date for online application is now April 15, 2009. Please visit the WSD2009 website at <http://www.wsd2009.kr> for an up-to-date calendar. Questions should be directed to master@wsd2009.kr.

Organizers say that due to an overwhelming amount of incoming registration as the original deadline approached, some applicants had difficulties in using the online application system. The WSD 2009 team issued an apology for that inconvenience and thanked those trying to register for their patience. They note they are receiving entries from designers from all over the world.

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Ursula Belden, shown when she received her Distinguished Professorship from Ohio University in 2000.

Photo/Rick Fatica

In Memoriam – Ursula Belden

Sandy Bonds

VP – International Activities

Ursula Belden, scenic designer, teacher, and long-time USITT member, died on January 14, 2009.

Ms. Belden's scenic designs were produced on Broadway, Off Broadway, in regional theatres from coast to coast, in Europe, and in Canada. Her Broadway credits included *Quilters*, *Waitin' in the Wings*, and associate design for *Amadeaus*, adapted from the London production. Off Broadway, she designed more than two dozen new plays, numerous American and/or New York premieres, and many classics, including the award-winning revival of Strindberg's *A Dream Play*.

Her extensive regional theatre credits, (over 150 designs) included productions for the Mark Taper Forum, Pasadena Playhouse, Kennedy Center, Cleveland Playhouse, Denver Center, Walnut Street Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theater, and GeVa. Recent international credits included productions at the Volksbuehne in Berlin and the Citadel Theatre in Canada.

A recipient of numerous New York and national awards, her work was regularly selected for inclusion in the USITT PQ USA exhibits in Prague. *Conversations with My Father*, for the Cleveland Playhouse was represented at PQ 1999. *The Dybbuk*, produced by Syracuse Stage, appeared in the PQ 2003 exhibit, and Theatre for the New City's *Finding Claire* was chosen for the USITT PQ USA in 2007.

A graduate of Yale School of Drama and member of USA 829, Ms. Belden was a Distinguished Professor of Scene Design and Head of Production Design and Technology at Ohio University. She served as a guest professor at London's Central St. Martin's School of Art and Design, and conducted workshops in Berlin,



Bali, Katmandu, Prague, and Hong Kong, where she worked as a



Fulbright Senior Specialist. The excellence of her teaching was twice recognized by awards to her students from the Tobin Theatre Arts Fund, for the trunk of assembled designs submitted for the PQ 2003 Student Exhibit, and for an individual student, Eric Beeck, for his scene design of *Marat Sade* in the PQ 2007 Student Exhibit.

Ms. Belden's participation in USITT activities demonstrated her tireless dedication to the Institute. She co-designed the National Exhibit for PQ 2003, as well as served as a part of the curatorial team. Through her recruiting efforts, she was able to increase the participation of New York-based designers and add several dynamic productions to the display. She also designed the structure for the World Stage Design Exhibit in Toronto in 2005 and continued as a member of the PQ team in 2007 by designing the Student Exhibit. Her countless hours of volunteerism and determination deeply enriched all three of these events and provided a strong public face for USITT exhibitions.

In addition, Ursula served as the alternate representative to the OISTAT Scenography Commission for several years and was recently appointed as the official representative. Her spirit of internationalism represented us well throughout the globe, and she was an outstanding member of the theatre design community worldwide.

Her colleague at Ohio University, Holly Cole, remembered Ursula with these words. "She wanted us to be great. She wanted us to care about the world and make it better. She believed passionately in the power art has to change the world – to change the way we look at each other, the way we understand events. She was an activist-artist and a committed mentor to her students. She opened up the world for her students here and abroad by sharing her contacts, carving out new opportunities, and taking them with her as she designed. She opened doors for them and got them working on Broadway, in London, in Hong Kong, in Germany, and in regional theatres across this country.



Ms. Belden and the PQ 2007 team.

"To her fellow faculty she was our artistic leader. Her focus was on the bigger goals, the larger vision of what we needed to do for our students, our audience, and ourselves as artists. Her passion for theatre was boundless and challenging. She demanded that the work be meaningful, that it be true to a larger vision of life and its meanings."

An exhibit of Ms. Belden's scenic designs will be on display at Stage Expo and those who knew her are invited to a tribute to be held between 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 in Room 251 of the Duke Energy Convention Center. For an additional tribute to Ms. Belden, please visit the Ohio University webpage at <http://www.ohio.edu/outlook/08-09/January/277.cfm>.

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usitt Conference Employment Service

Conference Employment Service Available Again

Carolyn Satter
Conference Employment Service Coordinator

The USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo offers a unique opportunity for those seeking employment and those who have positions which need to be filled.

Among the thousands of design and technical professionals attending the Conference will be those available for new professional or educational opportunities. There also will be students seeking internships or assistantships. Still others will be exploring options for summer opportunities.

At the same time, businesses, entertainment venues, colleges, universities, and performing arts organizations may be looking for new employees.

As part of the upcoming 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo, USITT is offering an Employment Service. Employers will list open job positions and applicants will list resumes. Interviews will be scheduled by the employer and applicant at the convenience of both from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 19 to 21 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. The Employment Center will be open 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to enable all paid participants to view the descriptions and resumes.

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

To find out more about the USITT Conference Employment Service, download a flyer in PDF format [here](#).

Those with jobs to fill are urged to download the PDF application [here](#).

Those seeking positions are urged to download the Applicant PDF [here](#).

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

All forms must be returned by e-mail or fax to the USITT office. Fax applications to 315-463-6525 or e-mail to shannan@office.usitt.org. For additional information, contact Carolyn Satter, e-mail carolyn.satter@sandiegotheatres.org or visit the [Conference Employment Service](#) website.

The USITT Conference Employment Service is a benefit for USITT members, and all applications must include a USITT member number. All those wishing to participate are urged to submit their forms by March 10, 2009 to avoid an increase in fees for registering onsite in Cincinnati.

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Gifts Benefit USITT Members

Lawrence J. Hill
USITT @ 50 Chair

USITT has completed its third year of active giving in celebration of USITT@50, Securing Our Future. USITT has been able to advance the careers of its members in 2007-2008 with over \$29,840 in recognizing excellence largely because of the contributions from hundreds of individuals and organizations over dozens of years.

What are the results of giving through annual choices on membership forms or conference registration? These contributions build the principal that provides dividends to fund student activities, international study and travel, and research grants or fellowships. Additionally, there are nearly 90 members actively supporting the Five-Year Campaign, plus long-term and annual significant corporate and individual support for the Young Designers & Technicians Awards, The Rising Star Award, and other recognitions.

This commitment to recognizing and rewarding excellence is one of USITT's highlights each year. Most importantly for 2007-2008, a total of \$29,840 made a difference for 15 individuals in the USITT community.

- (1) The Rising Star Award \$1,000
- (9) Young Designers and Technicians Awards \$9,500
- (4) Edward F. Kook Research Grants \$15,140
- (1) Scripps International Activities Fund Individual/Professional Travel Award \$2,500

Annual gifts from membership forms and conference registration this past year and the contributions from those nearly 90 members who contributed to the Campaign increased the principal in each of the following funds:

Edward F. Kook Fund (Research)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| General Contributions | \$2,995 |
| Five-Year realized commitments | \$3,025 |
| 50% Match Five-Year commitments | \$1,512 |
| | \$7,492 |
| | <i>Increase in principal</i> |

Samuel H. Scripps International Fund

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| General Contributions | \$820 |
| Five-Year realized commitments | \$1,900 |
| 50% Match Five-Year commitments | \$950 |
| | \$3,670 |
| | <i>Increase in principal</i> |

New Century Fund (student activities)

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| General Contributions | \$18,001 |
| Five-Year realized commitments | \$4,100 |
| 50% Match Five-Year commitments | \$2,050 |
| | \$24,151 |
| | <i>(\$9,500 directly to YD&T awards, \$8,501 to principal)</i> |

USITT Fund (future projects)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| General Contributions | \$7,703 |
| Five-Year realized commitments | \$11,450 |
| 50% Match Five-Year commitments | \$5,725 |
| | \$24,878 |
| | <i>Increase in principal</i> |



USITT began to build the principal for a single award over 25 years ago. It is now realizing the benefit of that wisdom. Through mid-January 2009, in the spirit of the 50th year celebration, the Institute has received general contributions, Five-Year commitments, estate planned gifts, fully-funded awards, major cash gifts, and funds from the 50% match which equal a total of \$472,509. Three and a half years of increasing the Institute's ability to recognize the excellence of the work and talent of its members is gratifying.

The Board of Directors has agreed to an inducement for the last two years of fund-raising in celebration of USITT's 50th year. There will be a 50% match to any annual gift that supports research, student activities, future projects of the Institute and international activities, to the four funds outlined above. We like the idea of \$50 for 50 years, but one doesn't have to be constrained by that figure. We will remind our members of this last effort to increase the principal of these funds as we move toward Kansas City.

During the Cincinnati 2009 Conference & Stage Expo, forms will be available at the USITT Booth on the Stage Expo floor for attendees to make a contribution for a 50% match. Also, look for The Bottle to reappear in Cincinnati as another opportunity for "Securing Our Future."

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Broadway-level Training at Reduced Rates

Michelle L. Smith
Membership & Ad Sales Manager

***Live Design* Master Classes**

Live Design again will offer intensive training on lighting, sound, and projection in theatre design. Tony Award-winning lighting designer Jules Fisher and legendary sound designer Abe Jacob are the creative consultants for these professional training courses.

The Broadway Lighting Master Classes will be held May 18 to 20 in the New York University Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. The Sound Master Classes will be held May 16 to 17 at the Abe Burrow's Theatre at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. The Projection Master Class will be held on May 21 in the Eisner Lubin Auditorium at NYU's Kimmel Center for the Arts.

USITT members enjoy special Union/Association rates that are \$200 to \$300 dollars off the Professional rates. Register early to save even more! Register online by clicking [here](#).

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 picture inscribed on the Nathan Award Medallion was devised in 1969. It features three roses, flowers that symbolize the critic's praise, with their thorns symbolizing the critic's scorn.

Gener Wins Nathan Award

Randy Gener, senior editor of *American Theatre*, was named winner of the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism for 2007-2008. His work is familiar to USITT members who recall the article, *Technology and the Search for New Metaphysics in Prague*, that appeared in *TD&T* in 2007.

A writer, critic, editor, playwright, and visual artist based in New York City, he is the author of the plays *Love Seats for Virginia Woolf* and *What Remains of a Rembrandt Torn into Four Pieces*, scholarly essays, and articles and reviews in such publications as *The Village Voice*, the *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *The Star Ledger*, *Theatre Design & Technology*, and *Time Out New York*. He has worked as an editor of the Theatre Institute of the Czech Republic's newspaper *Prague Quadrennial Today* and as a freelance dramaturge for the Joseph Papp Public Theater, Roundabout Theatre Company, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, and Denver Center Theatre Company.

His floral installation, *In the Garden of One World* (a collaboration with the Romanian scenic designer Nic Ularu), debuted in 2008 at La MaMa La Galleria. He received a 1995-96 Jerome Foundation American Theatre/Affiliated Writers Program fellowship; a 2003 *New York Times* critic fellowship at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Critics Institute; grants from the Foundation of the American Theatre Critics Association, the Ford Foundation, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding; and a *Filipinas Magazine* 2007 Arts and Culture Prize, honoring Filipino American leaders who have excelled in their fields. A member of the theater alliances NoPassport and Theater Without Borders, he was inducted in 2008 to *Via Times* of Chicago's Filipino American Hall of Fame.

The award consists of \$10,000 and a statuette, which will be presented to Mr. Gener by Ellis Hanson, chair of the Cornell English Department, at a celebration in New York in March. Considered the highest accolade for dramatic criticism in the United States, and one of the most distinguished in the American theatre, the Nathan Award was endowed by theatre critic George Jean Nathan (1882-1958), who wrote for and co-edited with H.L. Mencken the magazines *Smart Set* and *The American Mercury*. The Cornell English Department administers the prize for its alumnus.

The Award Committee's Citation states: "The Nathan committee was particularly impressed by Randy Gener's writing for *American Theatre* this year. He has used that venue and others to draw our attention to largely ignored voices and visions on the international theatrical scene, to the work of Filipino-American playwright Jessica Hagedorn, to a small but lively Tennessee Williams Festival in Provincetown, and to the future of theatrical criticism itself in essays that wed critical intelligence with a beat reporter's love of the telling an unruly fact."

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BFA Guidelines up for NAST Vote

NAST is scheduled to vote during its National Meetings March 26 to 28 on the Bachelor of Fine Arts curriculum, a project that was spearheaded by USITT's Management Commission. (See story in the May issue of *Sightlines*.)

Congratulations to the many, many members of the Management Commission and their affiliates at NAST for the tremendous amount of work which has gone into this project, which has taken several years to accomplish.

[To Top](#) ↑**H & H Award Winners Named**

Congratulations to Brittany E. Eastburn, Nicholas Flinn, Katie Liang, Chrissy Nickel, Patrick Tynan, and Benjamin Eugene Womick who were selected as winners of the H & H Student Conference Support Program for 2009.

Each of the students, who has been a member of USITT for more than a year, registered for the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo before the Very Early deadline in December. They were chosen in a random drawing conducted by the USITT office.

The six students will be able to attend the Conference supported by funds from H & H, and Reid Neslage, Vice President of the California company which created the Conference support program more than five years ago.

[To Top](#) ↑**More Bikers for Long Riders**

The Long Reach Long Riders have added to the roster of riders for their 2009 charity motorcycle ride. Sam and Kacey Fisher, of Fisher Theatrical in Hanover, Maryland will be joining returning veterans and the other new riders to help raise funds for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes program. This will be the 6th annual ride for the group. What started out as a one-time ride has blossomed into a yearly event which has raised over \$170,000 in the past five years.

This year's ride begins on July 31 in Richmond, Virginia and ends August 6th in Dahlonega, Georgia. In between will be a leisurely ride through the beautiful Smokey and Blue Ridge Mountains as well as trips on the Blue Ridge Parkway and the famed Dragon's Tail in Robbinsville, NC.

To date there are 14 bikes and two chase cars registered for the ride. There are eight Harley Davidsons, three Hondas, one BMW, one Kawasaki, and a Buell. The riders hail from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, Kentucky, Washington DC, Maryland, New York, British Columbia, and England. David and Brenda Edelstein, of London, England, are making it a family affair by bringing their kids, Henry and Lucy along for the ride. Rumor has it they'll all take turns riding behind David on his Electra Glide.

Greg Williams, who shares this years' Ride Marshaling duties with Alice Neff, and Moe and Christine Conn, noted "We're thrilled to have Sam and Kacey on the ride and hope that more people will also decide to ride with us. The more people we have the more money we raise. It'll be more fun too."

For more information on joining the ride, making a donation or sponsoring an event along the route, please visit <http://lrlr.org>

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Hall Associates Upgrades

We thank **Hall Associates Flying Effects**, a long-time member of USITT, for upgrading their support to that of a Contributing member of the Institute.

Hall Associates, headed by Tracy Nunnally, President and Owner, has been a member of USITT for more than 10 years. To find out more about the company and its services, visit www.flyingfx.com.

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Eos lights up the Golden State

Since its debut in 2006, **ETC's** award-winning Eos control system has taken the entertainment lighting world by storm, with lighting professionals across the globe choosing the console to control conventional and moving lights. Eos is particularly popular in California.

The famed Hollywood Bowl upgraded to an Eos console last year to handle all the conventional lights and some of the moving lights on its rig. Since then, more than 100 shows have been lit by the board, including many tours where guest lighting designers used Eos to control the show.

Eos was used to program the lighting on the American Music Awards show, held in Los Angeles' Nokia Theater in November. The Los Angeles Opera (LAO) is another venue benefiting from Eos. Since summer 2007, Eos has controlled the lighting for LAO's productions at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, including *Carmen*, as well as a recent presentation of *The Nutcracker* by the Los Angeles Music Center.



Photo by Robert Millard and courtesy of LA Opera.

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Online Lighting Seminar Held

Creative Stage Lighting held an online seminar about lighting design titled Lighting Design 101 on February 19.

Richard Cadena, editor of *Projection, Lights and Staging News* and author of books such as *Automated Lighting: The Art and Science of Moving Light*, presented the seminar. Kevin Loretto of Creative Stage Lighting moderated.

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Two New LED Products Launched

This month:
Hall Associates Flying Effects
ETC
Creative Stage Lighting
City Theatrical
PRG
J.R. Clancy
Creative Handbook

City Theatrical has released two new LED products utilizing Philips Color Kinetics LED lighting fixtures combined with innovative City Theatrical technology to produce new, never before seen lighting products.

The MasterBlast uses a Philips Color Kinetics ColorBlast 12 TR LED lighting fixture combined with CTT's patented SHoW DMX wireless DMX technology to create a totally wireless, battery powered, LED lighting fixture with up to 10 hours of operating time.



The MasterBlast's built-in stand alone routines and wireless DMX allow events to be run without a lighting console, external wireless DMX gear, or power and data cables saving time, space, and money. The combination of bright RGB LEDs from Philips Color Kinetics with SHoW DMX wireless DMX and control from City Theatrical gives event lighting users a wide range of new options in lighting while saving time and money. Both the MasterBlast and iW Blast TR Lighting Kit are ETL, cETL, and CE listed, are RoHS compliant and are available through City Theatrical distributors worldwide.

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Distributers Help Light Skating Championships

The 2009 United States Figure Skating Championships were held January 18 to 25 at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. Held annually since 1914, it is the nation's most prestigious figure skating event, awarding 12 national champions in ladies', men's, pairs' and ice dancing on the senior, junior and novice levels. The event was broadcast live on NBC, with the Ladies Singles events appearing in prime time on Saturday and Sunday nights.

William Brennan, long time lighting designer for NBC Sports, used 50 Clay Paky 1500 Beams specially fitted with frost for this facility and for broadcasting this event.

AG Light and Sound, a dealer for **PRG** Distribution North America, supplied the lighting package. For more information on PRG Distribution, visit www.prgdistribution.com.

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Firm Supplies Arts Center Rigging

J. R. Clancy, Inc. was tapped to supply rigging for a new performing arts center near Troy, New York and recently received a patent for its SureGrip rope.

When the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute opened on October 3, its theatre, concert hall, and two studios were ready for action with state-of-the-art, automated rigging from J. R. Clancy, Inc.

Eight years in the making, the 221,000-square-foot Curtis R. Priem EMPAC includes nine levels of studios, a 1,200-seat concert hall, a smaller 400-seat theatre, a studio with seating for 240 people, another that seats 120, a 1,500-square-foot rehearsal studio, and four artist-in-residence studios. J. R. Clancy supplied the rigging and acoustical equipment for the four performance spaces and point hoist systems for the two studio theatres.

The United States Patent Office issued patent 7,461,500 to J. R. Clancy for a "System for Determining Wear to Rigging System Lines," more commonly known as SureGrip™ rope. This is the only theatrical rope with a wear indicator to tell users when the rope should be replaced. It was developed to address the safety concerns of worn hand lines. Excessive wear is indicated by a "telltale" red thread woven into the rope – when red threads are visible, it's time to replace the line.

For additional information, contact J. R. Clancy at 800-836-1885, or visit the company's newly redesigned website at www.jrclancy.com.

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Sign Online Anniversary Card!

Creative Handbook is celebrating its 20th anniversary and invites all to sign its [online card](#).

Based in Toluca Lake, California, it is a production source book featuring a wide range of information for all aspects of production for commercials, features, television, music videos, and events available in the Southern California region. For more information, visit the [Creative Handbook](#) website.

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Serapid To Sponsor Architecture Competition

Serapid, Inc., a supplier of stage, orchestra and piano lift systems for the entertainment industry, will exhibit at the 2009 USITT Stage Expo in Cincinnati March 19 to 21.

Visitors to Serapid's booth will see the LinkLift live in action. The patented, award-winning LinkLift was most recently seen during the 2008 Olympic Opening Ceremony in Beijing.

In addition to exhibiting, Serapid is proud to co-sponsor the third annual USITT Design Competition for Architectural and Theatre Students. The "Ideal Theatre" competition will judge the winning design during Stage Expo.

For more information about Serapid solutions for stage engineering visit booth 1083 at USITT Stage Expo 2009, call 586-274-0774, e-mail info-us@serapid.com, or visit www.serapid.com.

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Supplier Helps Stage Corporate Event in China

In one of the largest corporate events yet staged in mainland China, Hippotizer media servers helped launch the new Montblanc watch collection at the National Indoor Stadium in Beijing. The event took place November 7, featuring a custom-scored rock opera "Journey Through Time," a tribute to the history of timekeeping.



Hippotizer is manufactured by Green Hippo and distributed by **TMB**. For more information about Hippotizer, visit the TMB Hippotizer web page at www.tmb.com/products/hippotizer. Learn more about other innovative and exciting products from TMB at www.tmb.com.

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Installs Safety System in South Dakota

Sapsis Rigging, Inc. recently completed the installation of a Fall Arrest system for the Rushmore Plaza Civic Arena in Rapid City, South Dakota. The system consisted of 15 horizontal lifelines ranging in length from 30 feet to 125 feet.

The system is designed to give the venue riggers full access to the rigging beams in the ceiling and to provide full range of movement for each rigger. Chris Harris and Scott Sloan, both ETCP Certified riggers with Sapsis Rigging, worked with the local rigging staff for four days to complete the installation.

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Welcomes Dealer in Spain

Wybron, a veteran lighting company based in Colorado, has expanded its global distribution network to Spain.

Based near San Sebastian with offices in Madrid, Entertainment Equipment Supplies will distribute Wybron products across the western European country. Founded in 2004, EES sells a variety of lighting equipment and mainly serves the rental, television, and theatre markets.

For more information about EES or Wybron, visit www.wybron.com.

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To Offer Scene Seminars

This month:
Serapid, Inc.

TMB

Sapsis Rigging Entertainment
Services Inc.

Wybron, Inc.

Cobalt

Cobalt Studios will offer several Specialty Pro Seminars this spring.

They include: Guns & Sprayers in the Scenic Arts, March 2 to 6 with Kamilla Nilsson Harkless; Faux Woodgrain, Interior Grade, March 24 through 26 with Nels Christianson; and Foliage II: Trees, Brushwork, and the Artist, March 30 to April 2 with Rachel Keebler.

For more information about any of these programs, click [here](#).

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Doug Stannard, president of the Louisiana Art Guild board of directors, will be part of a special session on governance at the 49th Annual Conference. He is shown in his shop.

Governance Versus Operations

Carl Lefko
USITT President

USITT is actively preparing for its 50th Celebration in 2010. This marks a major milestone in our history and symbolizes our bridge into the 21st century as well as the many changes we have seen in our growth to this point and the new directions being pursued that will undoubtedly solidify our future for the next 50 years.

This past October – and yes it was even over Halloween – Lea Asbell-Swanger, Chair of the Transition Advisory Committee; Carol Carrigan, Administrative and Financial Manager; and I attended the 2008 BoardSource Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. While we could have had our pictures taken with either Barak Obama or John McCain in the lobby of the hotel, it just did not seem an appropriate use of our time.

We were there to glean as much about governance boards, executive directors and financial issues surrounding not-for-profit organizations as we could. The sessions were informative and reaffirmed the work of the Institute over the past two years from the White papers in Las Vegas to the McCarthy Arts Consulting report and the recommendations of the 21st Century Task Force and the Transition Advisory Team. Believe it or not, all of these reports strongly support the Board of Directors' charge for change. As always the question is what will that change be?

It is impossible to summarize the collective material we gathered at the BoardSource conference. Among us, we attended over 16 workshops in just a short 36 hours. It's an organization that likes to meet as much as USITT does, or more! While the economy provided an undertone to each of the sessions, it was far from doom and gloom. Each session provided valuable information on how to do our jobs better. The basis to this theme was always governance.

We learned about the critical role the executive director plays in communicating with the volunteers, staff, and board of directors. The most constructive partnership is a board and CEO working together in a collaborative effort. The CEO runs the day-to-day activities and manages the staff. The board is responsible for strategic planning and assessment. Working together but maintaining an environment that allows the CEO to manage and the BOD to govern is key to the healthy growth of any organization.

We learned the importance of board thinking and deliberating on three different levels: fiduciary, strategic, and governance. Being able to separate each mode facilitates assessment, oversight, and forward thinking. It allows the CEO and staff to do their jobs and more

effectively serve the membership. The result is a more active board that has a clearly defined role based on accountability.

Sustainability over another 50 years will require changes to certain areas of the Institute. Many of these changes will need to target the new generations of the 21st century. In order for us to position our board to meet these new challenges, it will be important for us to actively solicit input from a more diverse constituency. "Diversity and inclusion are an action not an idea." The actions must be woven throughout the culture of the organization.

A major change for not-for-profits is driven by the 2009 IRS form. There are new questions regarding the organization's mission with new questions. The questions ask about potential local chapters and their governance policies, and about documentation related to a conflict of interest and a whistleblower policy. In order for us to maintain our tax exempt 501C3 status, it is critical that we work diligently to meet these new Federal guidelines.

Obviously, change is in the air and the Board of Directors, Transition Advisory Team, and Finance Committee are working diligently to figure out exactly what change is needed to carry us into our next 50 years. If you would like to view the complete report to the Board of Directors from our BoardSource meetings please e-mail info@office.usitt.org.

As we continue to learn about the values of a new governance structure with an Executive Director, the Transition Advisory Team will sponsor initiatives at the Cincinnati 2009 Conference & Stage Expo. They have invited Doug Stannard, president of the Louisiana Arts Guild board of directors, Michael Peitz, executive director for the Educational Theatre Association, and Pam Meister, executive director of the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, South Carolina. Each recently made the transition to a governance structure and will talk about those experiences.

The panel will make a presentation to the Institute's Board of Directors on Tuesday and are presenting an open session titled, *Transitioning USITT's Organization from an Operations Model to a Governance Model with an Executive Director*, scheduled for 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. I encourage everyone to attend if at all possible.

Any member of the Transition Advisory Team will be glad to speak about the process. Look for prominent GOVERNANCE buttons and enjoy a great discussion.

Albert Einstein on insanity
"Doing the same thing and expecting a different result."

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New England Congratulates Award Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the New England Regional Section-sponsored awards at the Region I Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival January 27 to February 1 in Massachusetts.

This year the winners of the USITT Sectional award in Technical/Craftsmanship were, for first place, Lauren Duffy, Keene State College, for the show: *The Rolling Collections*; and, second place, Marissa Jesus, Emmanuel College, for *The Frogs*. Honorable mention went to Dean Palmer, Southern Connecticut State University, for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The winners of the Tech Olympics were: Michael Altieri, first place; Jamie Steffan, second place, and Victoria Church, third place.

Although there were many volunteers who helped make this a special and exciting event, special thanks go out to Chase Rozelle, John Devlin, Rafael Jaen, Elinor Parker, Eric Cornwell, and Luke Sutherland for being outstanding Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Second Vice-Chairs of the design/tech events.

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Cold Day, But Productive Job Fair

It was cold but clear in Oswego when the Upstate New York Regional Section successfully held the fifth annual job fair and day of workshops.

Ann Emo, costume designer for Buffalo State University, led a session on blood and guts; Trish Ralph, scenic designer at SUNY Brockport, led a "going green" workshop focused on incorporating recyclables in designs; and Eric McAfee of J. R. Clancy led a rigging safety inspection workshop. After a working lunch and Section meeting, students participated in portfolio review led by host Johan Godwadt and interviews with Hanger Theatre, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, Shakespeare & Company Theatre, and the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre.



Photo/P. Gibson Ralph

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Desert State Holds Meeting, Mini-conference

This month:
New England

Upstate New York

Desert State

Desert State Regional Section held its annual meeting and mini-conference January 17 at Arizona State University which coincided with the first Desert Tech event.



There was a wonderful turnout with interesting presenters, generous vendors, and a fascinating keynote speaker in Jay O. Glerum. The following people and companies were among many who generously gave time and contributions: I.A. Local 336, Clearwing Productions, John S. Hyatt & Associates, John Barnet, Jerry Gorrell, Lynn Tuttle, Steve Adelman, Phil Foster, Ron Thacker, Pete Weisman, Kate Ellis, Eric Johnson, Clyde Parker, and Ric Alpers.

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Sessions by the Costume Design & Technology Commission always draw a crowd, especially the Costume Poster Session, shown at left in Houston, Texas, which allows participants to ask questions and interact with those presenting their ideas.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Attend Conference? Oh, Yes!

Cathryn G Ellis

Costume Design & Technology Commission

"To go, or not to go – to USITT" seems to be the question that everyone is asking as the economy becomes increasingly challenging. Universities are tightening their belts and everyone's wallets seem thinner. However, the answer to the question must be a resounding yes! Why? Because this year there is an inspiring lineup of workshops and preparations leading to the celebration of USITT's 50th anniversary and 2010 Conference in Kansas City.

There have been a few changes in the workshop lineup making the conference more productive and convenient for everyone. The Wednesday time slot from noon to 1:30 p.m. is open, giving attendees time to register and have lunch before the afternoon sessions. In addition, the 10 to 11:20 a.m. session on Friday has been changed to a 50th Anniversary Planning Session, a chance to brainstorm and finalize plans for 2010. In light of the specialized matrix for the anniversary, this extra session will help the Costume Design & Technology Commission generate and finalize planning for this special conference, allowing everyone the opportunity to get more involved.

On Wednesday, the Costume Commission will start off its programming with Alexandra Bonds's workshop on the *Costumes of the Beijing Opera*. Her new book will be available at the USITT Boutique at Stage Expo starting on Thursday, and Ms. Bonds will be signing books on Thursday at the USITT Booth. Later in the afternoon, Heather Fleming will present *Modifying Wigs*. The third session of the day is *Creating Costumes from Found Objects*, a hands-on workshop. Attendees will work in groups of five to six to create a costume from non-traditional and found objects. The Costume Design & Technology Commission meeting is the final session of the day.

Thursday begins with the ever-popular Costume Poster Session. Next, the Commission will honor costume designer Professor Han Chuenqi, international guest. He was the costume designer for the closing ceremony of Beijing Olympics 2008. One of the most important costume designers in China, Professor Han is dean of the design department of the National Dance Academy of China, and director of the Committee of Costume Design for the OISTAT Center in China.

Also on Thursday, Susan Davis will present *Graceful Bodices: Draping over Period Corsets*, a follow-up to her popular session from two years ago, *Draping a Graceful Skirt*. The session will demonstrate draping bodices from the 18th and 19th centuries, including how to deal with period shapes considering fabric grain, style lines, and proportion. Paper patterns and sleeves will be discussed, but the primary focus will be methods to create beautiful bodices.

Friday morning kicks off with *Draping Techniques in Half Scale* presented by Pamela

Rehberg. The next session will be the Commission planning session for the USITT 50th Anniversary in Kansas City. There will also be a retrospective of opera designer Robert O'Hearn. Friday includes the always popular *Wardrobe Work on Broadway*.

In the evening, the Commission will honor Lenna Kaleva, who will receive the 2009 Distinguished Achievement Award in Costume Design. A legendary designer, technologist, and educator in the areas of stage make-up and wigs, Ms. Kaleva will share her artistic journey as a celebration of her life and work. Friday will close with the Costume Design & Technology Commission Reception, with a delicious array of appetizers and a cash bar.

Saturday will begin with David McCarl presenting a workshop on *Elizabethan Ruffs Made Easy*. The second session of the day is a panel discussion chaired by Gweneth West on *Costume Designer and Draper Collaboration from the Studio to the Stage*. The panel will include Judy Adamson, Paul Favini, Marcy Linton, Susan Tsu, and James Glavan. The Costume Commission's final session is *Preserving Antique Garments* presented by Kathie Brookfield and co-presented with Cynthia Anneus, curator of costumes and textiles at the Cincinnati Art Museum, and Jean Druesdow, director of the Kent State Museum.

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Lighting Programming as Pervasive as Goetta

Vickie Scott

Lighting Vice-Commissioner for Programming, Cincinnati 2009

Spelled "goetta (pronounced "get-da" or "get-uh"), this Cincinnati area staple is a peasant food of German origin. The word "goetta" comes from the Low German word "götte." Composed primarily of ground meat and oats, and typically flavored with bay leaves, rosemary, salt, pepper, and thyme, this dish originated with German settlers from the northwestern regions of Oldenburg, Hanover, and Westphalia who emigrated to the Cincinnati area in the 19th century. Often called "Cincinnati Caviar," Greater Cincinnati residents consume approximately one million pounds of goetta annually.

Just as goetta provides variety to Cincinnati residents, the Lighting Commission intends to keep up with the Queen City by offering conference-goers a wide variety of lighting sessions. With *Architectural Dimming and Control*, a panel of today's leading lighting professionals will examine the different philosophies and directions in architectural lighting design.

In *Magic Sheets AREN'T Magic*, a panel of professional lighting designers will discuss the how each lays out his or her magic sheets and why it works for them. *Lighting Networks 101.101.101.101* will offer an introduction to the set-up and troubleshooting of lighting networks.

Unofficially titled "Pimp My Show!" the *LD / Programmer Communication* session will give insight into the essentials of communication in contemporary lighting design by exploring the communication process and vocabulary between the lighting designer and the lighting programmer. *Entering the Workforce / What's in Your Toolbox?* brings together industry professionals from the many facets of lighting who will discuss the differences and skills needed to enter the fields of theatrical, concert, opera, industrial and theme park lighting.

Dealing with projections and media servers in productions is an issue that has become more and more important in design. *Media Servers* shows "It's not your Momma's slide projector anymore!" Last, but certainly not least, have you been appointed to be your own supervisor? Are you an LD/TD/SD/SM/(add other duties here)? In the session *"Other Duties As Assigned"-Meet the Slash!* some fine folks who have already been diagnosed with "multiple responsibility disorder" share their insights and solutions.

The Lighting Commission has an action-packed and fun-filled conference planned. Be sure to have some Cincinnati-style chili with that goetta.

Previous Lighting Commission sessions have inspired those who attended with both drama and color, such as *Moving Lights and the Book Show* during the 2008 Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas.

Photo/ R. Finkelstein



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Fountain Square, which visitors may recognize from the television show *WKRP in Cincinnati*, is just steps from the three Conference hotels and the Duke Energy Convention Center. If the weather cooperates, visitors may be able to dine alfresco in the square.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome to Cincinnati!

Kathie Brookfield
Cincinnati Promotions Coordinator

The USITT National Office, the 2009 Conference Committee, and the staffs of the Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau and Duke Energy Center are taking care of last minute details in preparation for the 2009 USITT National Conference & Stage Expo.

There is still time to pre-register for the conference or register on site on the ground floor of the convention center. Rooms are still available at the Millennium Hotel conveniently located directly across the street from the Duke Energy Center and connected by skywalk on the second level where the meeting rooms for sessions are located. There are escalators and elevators for all levels.

Remember the swag items at the USITT Promotions Booth last year? Well, it's time to pack those bags and use that Cincinnati Museum Center luggage tag. Don't forget the red USITT pad folio to take notes at the great PDWs and Conference sessions that will be presented March 16 to 21. For the winners of the oyster cracker Guessing Games, bring those gift cards for a "Taste of Cincinnati."

A new exhibit, "Fashion in Film: Period Costumes for the Screen," opened in February at the Taft Museum of Art, 316 Pike Street. Hours are 11 a.m to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$4 for children 5 to 18; this includes museum admission. Some of the costumes on display include clothing worn by Ralph Fiennes in *Onegin*, Kate Beckinsale in *The Golden Bowl*, Nicole Kidman in *Portrait of a Lady*, and Cate Blanchett in *Elizabeth*. This is a not-to-be-missed exhibit. The museum is only 0.7 miles from the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel down 5th street with a right turn onto Pike Street.

Be prepared for spring weather which can be anything from snow or rain to sunshine. The Farmer's Almanac predicts higher than average rainfall and temperature for mid-March in Cincinnati. Temperature ranges for mid-March have been lows in the teens to highs in the 80s with a mean temperature of 44 degrees. Just remember the skywalk access from the hotels.

Airfare and gas prices are down from a few months ago making travel more affordable. Come and enjoy a stay and don't forget to ship some of that Graeters Ice Cream home before leaving.

The 2009 Conference Committee and Ohio Valley Regional Section welcome you with open arms to the Queen City!

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Olympic Designers Highlight International Activities

Sandy Bonds
VP – International Activities

The International Committee, in collaboration with several Commissions, has planned a full slate of internationally connected sessions for the Cincinnati 2009 Conference & Stage Expo.

International guest presenters include two of the designers credited with the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing – Costume Designer Han Chuenqi and Lighting Designer Sha Xiaolan. Mr. Han has considerable experience designing large-scale events, such as the operas *Aida* and *The Butterfly*. His presentation on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. will feature the closing ceremony costume designs. A multiple award winner, Mr. Sha is perhaps the most influential lighting designer in China, having designed for theatre, opera, dance and television. He is responsible for the lighting of both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and will speak on Saturday at 2:30 p.m.



A third international guest, Doris van Bebber, will speak to the Management Commission 10 a.m. Friday about her leadership in the Cultural Centre in San Miguel Allende, Mexico. The Centre provides scholarships for artistic activities for those whose lives might not otherwise be touched by the arts.

The Sound Commission has invited Nela Brown, a Croatian sound artist, to demonstrate her compositions and sound designs for contemporary theatre and dance at noon on Wednesday.

USITT members are active in pursuing overseas engagements and will convey their activities in several sessions. The International Committee sponsors an annual travel award through the Scripps International Fund, and two award winners will share a session 12:15 p.m. Friday. Peter Beudert (2008 Member Travel Award) will present his continuing research on the talented 19th century painters who worked for the Paris Opera House. He will be joined by Ryan Fletcher (2007 Student Travel Award), who will discuss his research on the international influence of engineering on the evolution of entertainment lighting.

On Thursday at 12:15 p.m., Michael

The work of international lighting designer Sha Xiaolan can be seen in the Birds Nest in Beijing, China as part of the 2008 Olympics. Mr. Sha will discuss his work during USITT's 2009 Annual Conference this March in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Photos/Courtesy Sandy Bonds

Ramsaur will report on his recent study of international lighting design practice, supported by a USITT Fellowship. He traveled to several global destinations to interview lighting colleagues about their approach to lighting in the 21st century. Alexandra Bonds will present the research from her recently published book, *Beijing Opera Costumes: The Communication of Character and Culture*, to the Costume Commission 2 p.m. Wednesday. A USITT Fellowship supported her travels to China to document this traditional performance style. On Saturday at 12:15 p.m., the Scene Design Commission will offer the unique perspective of designers from other countries who have come to work in the United States, and how this environment can affect their working style and design aesthetic.

For those interested in getting involved in USITT-sponsored international activities, a session on the Prague Quadrennial and Scenofest has been organized for noon Wednesday. Anyone wanting to volunteer to assist with scouting for productions to nominate for the USITT-USA National Exhibit, or participating in the planning of Scenofest events is invited to learn about the process at this meeting. The International Committee will hold its annual business meeting 9:30 a.m. Thursday where it will plot out the next phase activities for continuing and enhancing international interconnectivity.

The members of the International Committee are deeply saddened by the recent loss of their passionate colleague and valued friend, scenic designer Ursula Belden. There will be a display of her designs in the Stage Expo. A tribute to Ms. Belden will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 19.



Photo/Peter Beudert



The Birds Nest

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Sponsors Make Cincy Conference Special

Michelle L. Smith

Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Cincinnati 2009 Conference & Stage Expo attendees need not feel disconnected thanks to the Cyber Cafés located throughout Stage Expo ([click here](#) to view a map with their locations). Every café is outfitted with computers and internet connections so attendees can check their e-mail and surf the web.

Stage Expo is also the place to view [Tech Expo](#) – a biennial showcase of creative solutions to common production problems. Attendees wanting to take home a record of the interesting solutions they see on display can purchase the Tech Expo Catalog in the USITT Boutique.

Don't miss [Opening Night](#), the party that kicks off the week. Attendees enjoy getting together with one another and sampling light hors d'oeuvres. Opening Night takes place Wednesday in the ballroom at the Duke Energy Convention Center.

These events and services would not be possible without our sponsors. Attendees who take advantage of these services and events are urged to let the sponsoring companies and organizations know their support is greatly appreciated.

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Tech Olympic Fever!

Kurt Ottinger
Tech Olympics Coordinator

Come and participate in Tech Olympics, or just watch the fun, as undergraduate and high school student members test their tech skills in an instructive competition.

Tech Olympics is also a great way for students to get to know new people and network. This year Tech Olympics is 6:15 to 10:35 p.m. Friday, March 20. Events for this year are: Wiring a 2 Pin & Ground Connector; Costume Quick Change; Tape a Ground Plan; Hang and Focus a Lighting Instrument; Hook Up a Sound System; Knot Tying; Swaging (or Nicopress); and the Mystery Event.

Students can participate individually or in a team; teams are made up of between two and five students, and members of a team must be from the same school. Participants can register early by picking up a form from the call boards starting Thursday, March 19, but there will be registration at the door. Rules for the events will also be posted on the call board. Tech Olympic awards will be presented at Stage Expo on Saturday.

Anyone wishing to judge an event should contact Kurt Ottinger either by putting a note on the call board or e-mailing kottinger@nbparks.org.

Participants in the Tech Olympics at the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo enjoyed testing their skills against the clock and against each other. The 2009 version will be held Friday, March 20 in Cincinnati.

Photo/Casey Kearns

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The opening of Stage Expo often has a local flair, such as the strolling Sesame Street characters who were such a big hit in Minneapolis in 2003.

Photo/USITT Archive

Don't Miss Stage Expo 2009

Helen Willard
Stage Expo Sales Manager

Plan now to be at the Stage Expo Opening 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19 to see what this year's special entertainment will be.

Last year in Houston Grady Lee serenaded participants with cowboy songs, and in Phoenix entertainment was by the Native Trails Dance Troupe. In Louisville it was the *Call to the Post* by the Churchill Downs bugler, and in Toronto the crowd was wowed by Bandaloni, a one-man band. Remember Mariachi Los Angeles in Long Beach, Sesame Street Live in Minneapolis, and the Algiers Brass Band who led everyone into the New Orleans Superdome?

There is so much to see, make sure to schedule time at Stage Expo on all three days of the show. Stage Expo 2009 will fill exhibit halls A/B of the Duke Energy Convention Center with 180-plus exhibitors, including commercial booths and tables offering the latest technology for the entertainment industry. A number of exhibitors will be looking for apprentices, interns, and employees, and more than 50 colleges, universities, and theatre companies have reserved non-commercial table spaces to promote their programs.

For more information about Stage Expo 2009 exhibitors, visit the [Stage Expo Web Page](#) to see the Stage Expo layout and a current list of exhibitors. Click on a highlighted booth or table to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' websites so you can learn more about their products and services prior to the show.

There will be an abundance of special exhibits at Stage Expo, including the Endowment Art Auction, Cover the Walls, and Tech Expo 2009. The annual Architecture Awards exhibit will be joined by the 2009 Student Design Competition. The Tony Award-winning Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park will present an exhibition celebrating regional theatre design, and the Ohio Valley section will display the winning design and technology entries from this year's Peggy Ezekiel Award adjudicated competition. Ohio State University will present *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, and a

second OSU exhibit, *Selections from Midnight Robbers: the Artists of Notting Hill Carnival*, will explore the largest and most spectacular street performance in Europe.

Be with us at Stage Expo 2009 from the grand opening on Thursday at 9:30 am until the show closes at 3:00 pm on Saturday.

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Tech Olympics Strong in Midwest

Photos/Steve Jacobs

Steve Jacobs and Ellen White
Midwest Regional Section

Tech Olympics continues to flourish in the Midwest Regional Section with the addition of the Tech Olympics at the Michigan High School Theatre Festival. High school students have competed in a Tech Olympics at the Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan High School Theatre Festivals. In March there will be one at the Indiana Thespian Conference. This past January, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region III, held its Tech Olympics for college students as well.

The Michigan High School Theatre festival took place at Michigan State University in early December. The event was completely sponsored by Western Michigan University which organized all the events. This was the first time Tech Olympics was offered at the festival. Nonetheless, a full array of competitions were held: Hang & Focus, Knot Tying, Sound Setup, Prop Shift, Costume Change/Sew a Button (all in one), and Create a Cut List.

This year La Crosse hosted the 10th year of the event at the Wisconsin HSTF. Eight schools were represented with approximately 59 students competing in Hang & Focus, Prop Shift, Knot Tying, Sound Setup and Fold a Drop events. This year the Sew a Button event was included for the first time. Sponsors included Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Acme Productions, Inc., Michigan Tech, and ETC.



In its seventh year in Illinois, Tech Olympics continues to have widespread enthusiasm. This year's Olympics saw over 50 students from nine high schools around the state participating. Judging was done by members of the Midwest Regional Section and high school teachers

along with theatrical companies/dealers, many of whom provided "swag" as well. They were: Broadway Costumes, Chicago Spotlight, Inc., Designlab Chicago, ETC Lighting, Grand Stage Co., Hall Associates Flying Effects, and Intelligent Lighting Creations.

The KC/ACTF Region III Tech Olympics had 18 teams of two students each from 10 colleges and universities throughout the Midwest. A special thank you to Jim Ream who handled the Olympics. Everyone had fun!

The board of the Midwest Regional Section sees these Tech Olympics as a great method of recruiting students and teachers and making them aware of the existence of the Institute and the Midwest Section. We would like to thank everyone again who helps in the organization and running of the various Tech Olympics, but especially ETC for providing fixtures as prizes, the Midwest Section for the shirts, and the USITT Office for the great swag.

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