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USITT's 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo was a major success, breaking attendance records and providing information and networking for more than 4,000 people. The Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory chose Stage Expo as a backdrop for a press conference, and then returned to visit twice more to experience all that the Conference & Stage Expo offered. From March 18 to 21, USITT filled the Duke Energy Convention Center, hotels, restaurants, and nearby Fountain Square with conversation and the exchange of ideas between professionals.

Photo/Tom Thatcher



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## Shift for Stage Expo in 2010

**Barbara E.R. Lucas**  
*Sightlines Editor*

Just in time for USITT's celebration of 50 years of innovation, Stage Expo will shift days slightly. Instead of its traditional Thursday morning start, in 2010 Stage Expo will open on Wednesday morning, immediately after the blockbuster Conference Kickoff and Keynote.

Stage Expo will open Wednesday, March 31 at the Kansas City Convention Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Stage Expo will still to be a three-day event, closing at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 2, while the Conference will continue with sessions and activities through the closing party on Saturday, April 3.

Joe Aldridge, USITT's VP-Conferences, said the shift in days was in response to exhibitor concerns. "This will mean that all the wonderful people who support us by participating in Stage Expo will have the opportunity to be part of the last full day of our 50th celebration," he said. In the past, many exhibitors could not be a part of the Saturday afternoon and evening events because they were striking their booths or packing.

The reaction to the shift in time has been extremely positive, according to Helen Willard, Stage Expo Sales Manager. "Even before the start of this year's Stage Expo, we had more than 60 exhibitors who have signed up to select their booth space for 2010. We know that our commercial supporters make a large financial commitment to participate, and we appreciate that level of loyalty to USITT and our event." The shift in dates will also mean less time away from families for those who did not want to be away for an entire weekend.

The central location of the 50th celebration and large number of flights from multiple airlines should also assist Conference visitors in tailoring their Conference travel needs to fit into busy schedules.

USITT has not decided if the change to a Wednesday to Friday format for Stage Expo will be continued past 2010. Mr. Aldridge noted the organization is taking advantage of the opportunity provided by the 50th celebration to explore new options in all aspects of Conference programming.



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USITTHowDidYouDoThat.com

HOME FAQ USITT HELPFUL LINKS CONTACT

The time has come for the technical theatre problem solvers to have a clearing house of information. Welcome to USITTHowDidYouDoThat.com. Dedicated to the free and open exchange of technical theatre information, solutions, and ideas. Come on in, browse, contribute, ask and answer questions.

## Solutions

Lighting  
Effects  
Painting  
Properties  
Rigging  
Scenery

## Featured Product

## This Weeks Top Tip

Don't despair; it's not too late to turn your life around! Well, unless you are really old (like 40); in that case I suggest alcohol. If you are still a useful member society (under 40), I gathered some life tips that without a doubt change your life in such a deep and profound way, you won't even notice!

## This Weeks Top Question

Well, there are these three theories of humor. The Superiority Theory -- that you laugh when you realize that you're better than someone else, so nasty jokes, racist



## Submit Your Solution

Have a great idea you would like to share. We would love to hear it. Just follow the easy to assemble instructions and who knows, maybe you'll become famous.



## Questions for the Community

Haven't found the solution? Submit your question [here](#), and let the community help. Hard to believe your the first to face the issue.

## How Did You Do That Forum Up and Running

Frank Ludwig  
*Scene Design Commission*

There is a new forum available on the web for sharing production achievements with people around the world – a celebration of the creativity, resourcefulness, and talent of the USITT membership.

The site is hosted and maintained by the Scene Design Commission, at [www.usitthowdidyoudothat.com](http://www.usitthowdidyoudothat.com), but submissions that reflect innovation in technical production, engineering, lighting, and costuming are hoped for and expected. It doesn't have to be extraordinarily original or complicated to be worth sharing. The best solutions are often the ones more likely to be regarded as extraordinarily appropriate, extraordinarily economic, or even extraordinarily simple. Examples might include anything that contributes to production planning or execution. Unfamiliar rendering or model building techniques, neglected construction methods, a clever use of new or forgotten materials, and particularly effective special effects are always of interest to Institute members.

Digital images and short videos will be accepted for posting on the *How Did You Do That?* forum. To be eligible for posting, each submission must include the names of key artistic and/or technical personnel, name of producing organization, and title of show. Optional information will include cost of solution in money and time, total production budget, and a title for the post. All submissions will be accepted with the understanding, that if the submission generates overwhelming interest, the poster is willing to share how it was accomplished.

Visitors to the page will be able to post comments and cast votes for favorite production solutions. The top three vote getters may be invited to share their secrets in a special session at a future Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Other entries that garner significant interest may be featured in future *TD&T* articles or be invited to participate in USITT's Tech Expo, the every-other-year exhibition of technical solutions to production issues.

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## Joint Initiative Offers Training Calendar

Seen the calendar of industry wide training events? Go to the ESTA Foundation/USITT Joint Training Initiative [calendar website](#) for a comprehensive list of training sessions available to the entertainment technician. There is something for just about everyone.

Any organization planning a training event that should be included on the calendar of industry training events should contact Frank Stewart at [fstewart@estafoundation.org](mailto:fstewart@estafoundation.org).

Registrations are now being accepted for the following training events sponsored by the Joint Training Initiative.

Fall Protection and Rescue System Workshop, April 6 and 7 or April 8 and 9 in Bowie, Maryland. Combining both classroom and practical exercises, these courses 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.

Eos Console Training at ETC, June 1 and 2 in Middleton, Wisconsin. Designed to help beginning and intermediate level programmers advance their professional proficiency with the Eos console

Details on all sessions, including locations, trainers, fees and registration, can be found by following the links to Training and Seminars on [The ESTA Foundation Home Page](#).

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## Savings on Employment Services

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

**ArtSEARCH - The National Employment Bulletin for the Arts**

Members receive a 10 percent discount on subscriptions and 15 percent discount on advertising (can not be combined with any other discounts). For information on advertising, contact Heather Shock at 212-609-5900 ext. 267 or ads@tcg.org. For information on subscribing, contact Janelle Bernard at 212-609-5900 ext. 370 or custserv@tcg.org. You must identify yourself as a USITT member to receive the discount. ARTSEARCH can be found online at TCG's website [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org).

**THEatre JOBLIST - The National Employment Service Billboard for Theatre Arts**

Members enjoy a 20 percent discount off the non-member subscription rate, and over 30 percent off regular and special advertising rates (for organizational members only). To order or advertise, see the next issue of THEatreJOBLIST, call 317-826-7894, or e-mail ts@evansville.edu. Visit [www.theatre-service.com](http://www.theatre-service.com) for general information.

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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**NBC Universal Joins ETCP Council**

NBC Universal 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.

Paul Jordan, vice president of production safety, will representing NBC Universal on the Council.

NBC Universal is one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies in the development, production, and marketing of entertainment, news, and information to a global audience. Formed in May 2004 through the combining of NBC and Vivendi Universal Entertainment, NBC Universal owns and operates a valuable portfolio of news and entertainment networks, a premier motion picture company, significant television production operations, a leading television stations group, and world-renowned theme parks.

The ETCP Certification Council members represent the diversity of the entertainment industry and are key leaders drawn from entertainment business, labor, facilities, associations, and academia representing the diversity of the entertainment industry. Membership includes AMPTP, Cirque du Soleil, CITT, Disney Theatrical Productions, ESTA, IAAM, IATSE, InfoComm, The League, Live Nation, PRG, SHAPE, TEA, and USITT. ETCP is an ESTA initiative created to promote industry safety.

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### Great Event in Cincinnati

It was wonderful to see more than 4,000 industry professionals gathered for a wonderful and vibrant discussion of all that is happening in the many different parts of USITT's broad spectrum of interests.

The 2009 Conference set records in attendance, and we have already heard a great deal of positive feedback about sessions featuring Jules Fisher, the Fellows Address by Sonny Sonnenfeld, and the New Products Showcase which introduced Sterling Sheldon as Dick Durst's new sidekick.

For those who may have missed the Keynote, Fellows, or Fisher sessions, they can be found online since they were videostreamed live from Cincy and are now [available here](#).

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### Stage Innovations Allow Quick Changes

Marking the latest trend in performance hall innovation, Francis Marion University's Performing Arts Center can transform from a symphony concert hall to a dramatic theatre at the flick of a switch. The multi-purpose hall, which broke ground on January 30, was designed by members Holzman Moss Architecture (HMA). Requiring less than four minutes, the changeover is almost effortless – as the 20-ton, floor-mounted acoustic shell glides quietly backward into its own garage. Typically, this sort of transformation requires a large crew of stagehands and many hours to perform. Made from donated oriented strand board (OSB), a recycled material, this radical new stage shell is both economically and environmentally sound.

HMA's low-tech fix enables Francis Marion University, and could allow future centers throughout the country, to afford the same flexible staging options found in venues such as the Radio City Music Hall. The firm has recently completed phase one of the Center for Contemporary Arts at Shepherd University in West Virginia, the renovation of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Aycock Auditorium, and Kansas City's Music Hall and Municipal Auditorium. It is currently working on the Hylton Performing Arts Center at George Mason University in Virginia and the Roe Green Center at Kent State University in Ohio.

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### Brauner Receives Lifetime Award

USITT's New Products Showcase featured Dick Durst, far left, and his new sidekick Stirling Shelton, in red dress at right, who brought a whole new dimension to the event which featured swag, swag, and more swag. A record 4,200+ people attended the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

#### This month:

Great Event in Cincinnati

Stage Innovations Allow Quick Changes

Leon I. Brauner

Four New Fellows

Congratulations to Leon I. Brauner who received the USITT Honorary Lifetime Member Award at the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. A more detailed profile will appear in the May issue of *Sightlines*.

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### **Four Fellows Inducted**

Four new Fellows were inducted as part of the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Hearty congratulations to Louis Bradfield, Laura Crow, Carl Lefko, and Bill Sapsis who are now members of the august group which keeps its selection of new members a secret until the Conference.

Detailed profiles of all four new Fellows will appear in future issues of *Sightlines*.

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### Texas Scenic Aids Ford's Theatre Renovation

**Texas Scenic Company (TSC)** recently completed a stage rigging upgrade at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. The historic theatre where President Lincoln was assassinated held numerous celebrations hosted by the National Park Service and Ford's Theatre Society to commemorate the theatre's reopening in conjunction with Lincoln's 200th birthday.

For part of the renovation, the existing wood rigging support structure for counterweight rigging was upgraded to a new steel structure accommodating modern, motorized rigging. This project was the first large installation of TSC's new "Inline" zero fleet angle hoist system. The system offers multiple lifting capacities and speed options, while using dual motor and gear boxes for 100 percent redundancy.

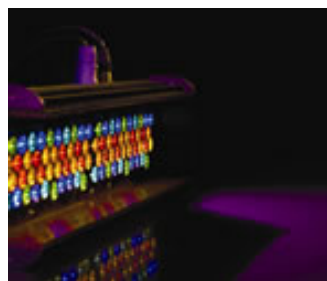
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### ETC Enters LED Market, Shines at Stage Expo

After long speculation about whether entertainment-lighting leader **ETC** would enter the LED market, the company has announced its acquisition of the Selador product line from Selador co-founders Rob Gerlach and Novella Smith. The full story of ETC's Selador Series launch is available at [www.etconnect.com](http://www.etconnect.com). Mr. Gerlach received support from USITT's Grants & Fellowship program to help him develop the LED concept.

Full product specs and details are now available at [www.etconnect.com/selador](http://www.etconnect.com/selador).

ETC exhibited its new LED product line publicly for the first time, unveiled a brand-new lighting control console, and staged some phenomenal student opportunities at its booth at USITT's Cincinnati 2009 Conference & Stage Expo.



As a free resource this year, the company provided a special, on-site service center, the Portfolio Workspace, to help people make last-minute adjustments and updates to portfolios and résumés.

As it does every year at the conference, ETC hosted its standing-room-only Student Session, where students had the chance to meet ETC representatives and ask questions for great swag prizes. Students also had the chance to win one of three professional portfolio cases.


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### ETC Offers LDI Assistance

**ETC** (Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.) again will offer its Student Sponsorship program, which will give six talented college students the chance to attend the LDI tradeshow in Orlando, Florida, November 20 to 22. In its tenth year, the scholarship offers undergraduate seniors and graduate students an all-expense-paid trip to the show where they get to work hands-on in ETC's booth, network with industry VIPs, meet their peers, and see the latest in show technology. The sponsorship includes roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations, all meals, a full conference pass, an exclusive student reception, and great ETC swag. Students in lighting design, theatre technology, or closely related fields are encouraged to apply. Download an application from ETC's web site at [www.etconnect.com](http://www.etconnect.com). The application deadline is April 30.

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### City Offers ETL-Listed Enclosures

Mounting lighting control gear outdoors can be a difficult task. Choosing a weatherproof enclosure of the correct size and shape, trying to figure how the gear will mount and connect, wondering what size holes are needed for connections to the outside world -- all are really daunting for the designer or systems integrator.

**City Theatrical** can help do it efficiently, at less expense, and with an ETL label that is required by law in many cities.

The company has launched its 7400 series Outdoor Use Enclosures available with NEMA 3R, NEMA 4, or NEMA 4X ratings, and with IP ratings up to IP66. They may be custom ordered in virtually any size and configuration, and all styles will be ETL Listed to UL STD 508A under City Theatrical's ETL Shop Listing.



These custom enclosures may be manufactured in steel, stainless steel, or aluminum, and may be powder coated in a range of durable and attractive colors. City Theatrical can implement customer designs or provide complete ground-up designs based on customer application requirements. All of the new 7400 series Outdoor Use Enclosures are designed and manufactured in City Theatrical's Carlstadt, New Jersey factory.

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### PowerLifts Get ETL Rating

PowerLift, **J. R. Clancy's** popular automated theatre hoist, has been listed as meeting the rigorous UL 1340 Hoist standard for safety by ETL. PowerLifts will now carry the ETL listing mark. This listing signifies that PowerLift meets the safety requirements of the world's most trusted source for product compliance, illustrating Clancy's ongoing commitment to backstage safety.

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### ETCP Renewal Training in Syracuse

Rigging professionals who have earned Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) credentials and who are employees of a J. R. Clancy Dealer can earn renewal credit hours by participating in the ETCP program at **J. R. Clancy, Inc.**, in Syracuse, New York on April 24 and 25.

The certification renewal program includes training in the proper use and inspection of fall arrest and fall protection equipment, as well as servicing, troubleshooting, and maintaining motorized equipment. Instruction in the use of fixed speed and push button controls will conclude the program.

The renewal training will be taught by four of the industry's leading experts in counterweight and motorized rigging: Bill Sapsis, president of Sapsis Rigging; Pete Svitavsky, an applications engineer with J. R. Clancy and the company's in-house professional engineer; Larry Eschelbacher, manager of the controls department at Clancy; and Pete Schmitt, of SEW-Eurodrive.

Space in the program is limited to 25 people. To register, call Marilyn Larsen at J. R. Clancy, 800-836-1885, ext. 322, or e-mail her at [marilynlarson@jrclancy.com](mailto:marilynlarson@jrclancy.com).

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### PRG Named Distributor for Gekko

**Production Resource Group, LLC**, (PRG) has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Gekko Technology, an industry leader in the design, development, and manufacture of LED luminaires created specifically for the requirements of image capture and entertainment sectors.

The agreement will include Gekko's current product portfolio of film and TV white light products as well as access to the newly developed klee color range of color products, including the kedo 12-100, which will debut at NAB 2009.

For more information on PRG, please visit [www.prg.com](http://www.prg.com).

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### DeSisti Lighting Welcomed

We welcome **DeSisti Lighting** as a new Sustaining member. Founded in 1982 by internationally acclaimed designer Mario De Sisti, the company designs, manufactures, and distributes lighting and rigging for the entertainment and architectural industries. Headquartered in Rome, Italy, the company operates and distributes in 35 countries. To find out more, visit [www.desisti.it](http://www.desisti.it).

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### Riggers Join Sustaining Ranks

**The Rigging Partnership** also has joined the Sustaining Member ranks. TRP provides custom-made rigging solutions through a global network of strategic alliance partners and associates. This allows TRP to assemble the best team for each project. Headquartered in London, Great Britain, more information on the organization can be viewed at [www.rigging-partnership.co.uk](http://www.rigging-partnership.co.uk).

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### USITT Welcomes High School as Member

**Worthington Kilbourne High School** in Columbus, Ohio, recently became a Sustaining Member. The school's mission is to teach all students to act responsibly and to think critically and creatively. More information can be found on the district website at [www.worthington.k12.oh.us](http://www.worthington.k12.oh.us) or at the [school's website](#).

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### Software Company Joins

**Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.** joined as a Sustaining member and exhibited at USITT in Cincinnati. Based in Elgin, Illinois, the company was formed in 2005 to develop software for fiber and fabric enthusiasts. D&P developed the Complete Clothier product, the ultimate pattern design program for amateur and professional sewers and designers. The Complete Clothier merges technology with textiles to create the next generation of garment design. For more information, visit [www.completeclothier.com](http://www.completeclothier.com).

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### Royal Caribbean Upgrades

We appreciate the increased level of support from **Royal Caribbean International** which has become a Sustaining member of the Institute. Royal Caribbean has been a USITT member since 2004, and people can learn more about the segment of the organization most closely associated with USITT at [www.royalcaribbeanproductions.com](http://www.royalcaribbeanproductions.com).

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### Institute Prepares for Summer

**Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas** is preparing for its third season of providing quality technical training in Las Vegas, Nevada, the epicenter of entertainment technology. This summer's sessions include Rigging, Automated Rigging, Moving Lights, Electrics, Pre-Visualization, Special Effects/Atmospherics/Live Weaponry, Moulage Disaster Make-up, and Sound. The faculty includes Brian Gale, Nol van Genuchten, Leonard Miller, Valy Trembley, Jake Winkelman, Scott Church, and Andrew Campbell. Participating corporations include Vari-Lite, Vortek, Silver States Wire and Rope, Selecon, Cast-Soft, Stage Research, and Meyer Sound. Housing will now be included in the fee, along with show tickets, tours and lunches. The eight, week-long sessions begin June 8 and conclude on July 31. Scholarships and sponsorships are available for the first time. For more information, go to [www.stagecraftinstitute.com](http://www.stagecraftinstitute.com) or call 702-388-7458.

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### Wybron Luminaires Enhance Worship

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DeSisti Lighting

The Rigging Partnership

Worthington Kilbourne High School

Dragon &amp; Phoenix Software, Inc.

Royal Caribbean International

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas

Wybron, Inc.

Vibrant colors from **Wybron, Inc.**'s Nexera color-mixing luminaires enhance worship services at Woodmen Valley Chapel, a 6,000-member church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Ten Nexeras, in both profile and wash models, paint the back of the church stage, including the fabric draped dramatically on either side of the main projection screen. For more information about the Nexera, visit [www.wybron.com](http://www.wybron.com). To learn more about Woodmen Valley Chapel, visit [www.woodmenvalley.org](http://www.woodmenvalley.org).

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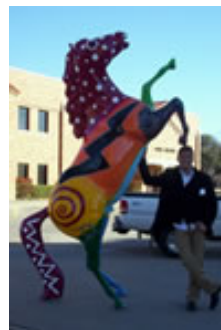
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**Another Successful Southwest Symposium**

The Southwest Regional Section's Winter Symposium was held at Midwestern State in Wichita Falls, Texas. Thanks to Elizabeth Lewandowski, Don (Cap) Henschel, and all of the students who worked so hard to make it a success. Dr. Friederike Wiedemann, provost, provided astute and encouraging opening remarks, and Rafael Jaen was adjudicator and keynote speaker.

The theme was "Collaboration" and students and professionals spent nearly eight hours working in teams to come up with a concept and collage for Ionesco's *Chairs*. Kasey Allee-Foreman organized and oversaw the workshop.

This month:  
Southwest

Sponsors and supporters of the symposium were: Schuler Shook Consultants, Fisher Technical Services, Meyer Sound Labs, VariLite/Phillips, CAST –Soft WYSIWYG, IATSE Local 51, Le Maitre Special Effects, GAM Products, Rosco, Lee filters, Production Resource Group-Dallas, Stagelight Inc., *Lighting and Sound America*, Norcostco, *The Painters Journal*, Texas Scenic, and Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas.

Winners of awards were: Costume Design, Haley Moore, first, Nara Lessor, second; Costume Technology, Abby Barker, first; Lighting Design, Fred Allen Self, first, Brandt Gentry, second; Scenic Design, Nathan Stanaland, first, Jeff Lindquist, second; Sound Design, Jay D. Johns, first, Megan Skinner, second; Stage Management, Faith Looten, first, Jordan Andrews, second; and Scenic Crafts/Technology, Michael Weiss, first, Da'Rel Johnson, second, and Brittany Lanni, third.

Bich Do received the Annual Schuler Shook Award for overall presentation and the Special Section President's Award.



Rafael Jaen congratulates Bich Do

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## Stage Expo 2009 - Cincinnati Rocks!

Helen Willard  
*Stage Expo Sales Manager*

Despite the shaky economy, Cincinnati's Stage Expo 2009 was bigger than any other show except last year's record-shattering show in Houston. There were 116 booth exhibitors and 66 tables, for a total of 182 exhibitors in 28,100 square feet of exhibit space. Thanks to all the exhibitors who made Stage Expo 2009 such a terrific success.

- A.C. Lighting Inc.
- The University of Alabama
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- American Harlequin Corporation
- Apollo Design Technology, Inc.
- University of Arizona
- Automatic Devices Company
- Bad Dog Tools
- Ball State University
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Barter Theatre
- Beck Studios, Inc
- Ben Nye Makeup
- BMI Supply
- Boston University Theatre
- California Institute of the Arts
- California State University - Fullerton
- University of California-Davis
- University of California - San Diego
- Camburn Associates
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Cincinnati Stage Employees - Local 5
- University of Cincinnati
- Cirque du Soleil
- City Theatrical, Inc.
- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Clark Transfer, Inc.
- Clear-Com Communication Systems

It took more than 18 minutes for the crowd assembled for the opening of Stage Expo to stream into the exhibit hall at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Once the doors opened, a record number of participants took the opportunity to view special exhibits, bid at the Art Auction, and learn about products, programs, and services.

Photos/Tom Thatcher

- Cobalt Studios
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Conductix-Wampfler
- Costume Gallery-Newport, LLC
- Creative Conners, Inc.
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- University of Delaware
- Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.
- Educational Theatre Association (EdTA)
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- Electronics Diversified, LLC
- Entertainment Services & Technology Association (ESTA)
- The ESTA Foundation/Behind the Scenes
- Entertainment Structures Group, a division of Steven Schaefer Associates, Inc.
- Florida State University
- Focal Press



- FocusTrack
- Foy Invention Enterprises, Inc.
- Future Light
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
- The George Washington University
- University of Georgia
- Glimmerglass Opera
- GoboMan
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- Hall Associates Flying Effects
- University of Hawai'i at Manoa
- HME
- Humboldt State University
- IALD-International Association of Lighting Designers
- IATSE Local 1
- Illinois State University
- University of Illinois
- InCord Ltd.
- Indiana University
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- University of Iowa
- Irwin Seating Company
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kent State University
- Kryolan Corporation
- Le Maitre Special Effects Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Lex Products Corp.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Live Design Magazine/LDI Show
- Louisiana State University
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.



- Make-Up Designory
- MDG Fog Generators
- Mehron, Inc.
- University of Memphis
- Mentionables
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Mongol Global Tour Company, Inc.
- Mutual Hardware
- Necessity's Inventions, LLC
- NetherCraft
- University of Nevada - Las Vegas
- Norcostco, Inc.
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- The University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- Northern Illinois University
- Ohio University School of Theater
- On Location Lighting Systems, Inc.
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- The Painter's Journal
- Pattern Works International, LLC
- PCPA Theaterfest
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- Plastic Coatings Corp.
- PRG
- Protech Theatrical Services, Inc.
- Purchase College
- Purdue University Theatre
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- Robert Juliat America
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- Royal Caribbean International
- Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- San Diego State University
- Santa Fe Opera
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Savannah College of Art & Design
- The School for Creative and Performing Arts
- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- SeaChanger by Ocean Optics
- SECOA
- Selecon
- Serapid, Inc.
- Shakespeare Theatre Company
- The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey
- Shimizu Octo, Inc.
- Show Distribution Group Inc.
- Shure Inc.
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- Society of Prop Artisan Managers
- University of South Dakota
- Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
- Southern Methodist University
- Stage Directions/Timeless Communications
- Stage Managers' Association
- Stage Research, Inc.
- Stage Technologies
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- Stagejunk.com
- StageRight Corporation
- StageSpot
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Steppenwolf Theatre Company
- Strand Lighting
- Strong Entertainment Lighting
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Tech Planner
- Texas Tech University
- University of Texas at Arlington
- University of Texas - Austin



- Thern Inc.
- James Thomas Engineering
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
- TiMax Audio Imaging
- TMB
- Tulane University
- Turning Star Inc.
- Union Connector Co., Inc.
- United Scenic Artists Local USA 829
- Utah Shakespearean Festival
- Vectorworks Spotlight by Nemetschek North America
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Virginia Tech
- Viterbo University
- Vortek, a division of Daktronics
- Walt Disney Entertainment
- Waveland Press
- Wayne State University Dept of Theatre
- Wenger Corporation
- Western Illinois University
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Yale School of Drama/Repertory Theatre
- ZFX, Inc.



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# Conference & Stage Expo

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## Sponsored Events, Services Enhance Conference

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

The conversation was sparkling and the mood festive at the eighth annual Opening Night held in the ballroom at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to kick off the Conference week networking with fellow attendees and partaking of scrumptious hors d'oeuvres provided courtesy of sponsors.

The Cyber Cafés saw heavy use over the three days of Stage Expo as attendees checked e-mail and surfed the web. Users also were able to learn more about sponsors' products and services as the computers' web browsers opened to their home pages.

Visitors to Tech Expo benefited from the interesting and educational projects on display, including "Stained Glass Windows Without the Glass" and "Friction Winches." Attendees who wanted to have a permanent record of the creative solutions presented purchased copies of the *Tech Expo Catalog*. The 2009 *Catalog* will be available through the [USITT bookstore](#) soon.

Conference participants who took advantage of these services and events are urged to let the sponsoring companies and organizations know their support is greatly appreciated.



## Cyber Cafés sponsored by

- City Theatrical, Inc.
- IATSE Local 1
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- Live Design/LDI
- Staging Concepts, Inc.



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## Executive Committee

- Carl Lefko, *President*
- Patricia Dennis, *Secretary*
- Travis DeCastro, *Treasurer*
- Kim Williamson, *Vice-President for Commissions*
- Bobbi Owen, *Vice-President for Communications*
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## Directors at Large

2006-2009

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

2007-2010

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

2008-2011

- Dan Culhane
- Mary Heilman
- David Krajec
- Carolyn Satter
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- Entertainment Technology
- Future Light
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- Hall Associates Flying Effects
- heatshrink.com
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- *Live Design* Magazine/LDI Show
- Martin Professional, Inc.
- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Morris Architects
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SeaChanger by Ocean Optics
- SECOA
- Stage Research, Inc.
- StageRight Corporation
- Steeldeck Inc.
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- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vari\*Lite
- Vincent Lighting Systems
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- The Rigging Partnership
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- Royal Caribbean International
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
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- Topac Inc.
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*The Scream* by Edvard Munch, 1893

## Why Can't I Scream Back?

### Thoughts for the Collegiate Stage Manager to Cope with those Difficult Situations

**By Christopher Sadler***Assistant Professor of Stage Management, The University of Oklahoma*

Part of the life of the stage manager is, oftentimes, being the scapegoat for artists' frustrations, fears, insecurities, and egos. Unfortunately, being yelled at is as much a part of the job as constructing a run book or calling cues. What is done in response is the mark of a good or poor stage manager.

Respect should be the defining guideline for the stage manager: respect for the work, for the artists, for the process, for the crew, and for the production. Stage managers must lead by example, even if those around them don't "deserve" respect. Always remember, even if you personally feel someone doesn't warrant respect, their position does - from crew member to director, peer to professor.

The most difficult thing for a young stage manager is to determine how one handles being yelled at in those tense moments - public or private - when voices are raised and you become a sacrificial lamb. It takes a great deal of personal security and maturity to respond to an emotional, even hysterical, outburst with a calm, collected manner.

So, what do you do? You breathe. You **listen** to what is really being said. You are polite. You take the high road. If you feel that you have to yell back because of self-respect, then maybe stage management isn't the career for you. Stage managers must have thick skins and realize that artists and technicians come in every conceivable personality type. Stage managers can't be therapists **and** do their job at the same time (i.e. you can't change a leopard's spots).

Taking the high road shows others that you **have** self-respect; that you won't create even **more** drama; that you know the stage manager's job; and that you are a classy human being.

Frustrating? You bet. Unfair? Perhaps. But this world in which we work is, many times, frustrating and unfair. What better place to comprehend that but in school? If you use your educational years to develop skills and a style to deal with **all** personality types with maturity and class, the professional world will be a (relative) breeze.

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