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The Upstate New York Regional Section expanded its programming to include a Spring Fling, held at the State University of New York at Buffalo campus. Above, Phil Heid, Northeast Division Manager of Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc., shows off LED lighting, part of a session of the State of the Art of LED fixtures, highlighting the best features of a wide variety of gear. To learn about other Regional Section events, [click here](#).

Photo/P. Gibson Ralph



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Name to Change for USITT Membership Type

Holly Monsos

VP Members, Sections & Chapters

USITT will have a new membership type starting July 1, 2009!

Well, not actually a new type, just a new name. The **Organizational** type will become known as **Supporting** on that date.

There has always been some minor confusion over the name of this type, since it's also the name for a membership category. The organizational membership category has been: Organizational, Sustaining, and Contributing. It will now be: Supporting, Sustaining, and Contributing, which clears up any confusion.

This is certainly not the biggest or most important change USITT will be undergoing in its 50th year of existence, but it does make our membership options just a little bit clearer – and reducing confusion is always a good thing!

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ESTA, PERA Announce Intended Merger

The Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA) and the Production Equipment Rental Association (PERA) announced an agreement to merge, subject to final ratification. Under the agreement, PERA will become the PERA Council within ESTA, retaining its focus on the production of film, television, and commercials. The council's mission is to focus on development and implementation of programs and services for production rental businesses.

The move will provide PERA members with immediate access to a wide array of benefits and services as well as the support of a professional staff while allowing the PERA leadership to focus on its core mission. By adding a key sector, ESTA strengthens its voice on behalf of the entertainment technology industry and brings an important new dimension to many of its programs.

ESTA President Bill Groener commented, "In a time where uncertainty rules the day and even General Motors is a question mark, the merger of these two closely related industry organizations makes economic sense and, more importantly, business sense for the companies that make up the membership of both organizations."

"This will provide greater membership value and expand opportunities for companies serving the entire entertainment technology industry," said PERA President Pat Patin. "This merger strengthens the position of both organizations."

ESTA is one of the world's leading trade associations for the entertainment technology industry. Its more than 500 members work in all areas of the industry and its benefits and services include the ANSI-accredited Technical Standards Program, Entertainment Technician Certification Program, Market Research Program, and the new Business Peer Group Advisory Program. PERA is the international trade association for film and video production rental companies. It supports the use of new technologies in the production industry, promotes the professionalism of its membership, and provides a unified voice on issues affecting the industry.

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Costume Symposium Registration

There is still time to be part of the 2009 Costume Symposium, *Creating Creatures with Foam and Varaform*, scheduled for August 6 to 8 at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

The registration deadline is June 30. Information and registration form can be found on the [Costume & Design Technology Commission website](#).

[To Top](#) ↑**Alberta Site of Rendez-vous 2009**

The Citadel Theatre will host CITT/ICTS's 2009 Rendez-vous 19th Annual Conference and Trade Show from August 13 to 15 in Edmonton, Alberta.

The conference promises to be an exciting event with over 30 workshops, panel discussions, roundtables and sessions, a trade show featuring the latest products and services for the live performing and entertainment industry, numerous social events, and the greatest networking opportunities to be found in Canada.

Download the [registration form](#). Register before June 30 and save \$50 on the Full Conference registration!

To sponsor an event or to reserve a booth, download the [sponsorship and trade show brochure](#) or contact Monique Corbeil, National Coordinator at the National Office at 613-482-1165 or by e-mail at info@citt.org

For the complete schedule and accommodation information at the Hotel Sutton Place (conference rates start at \$89), visit the [website](#).

[To Top](#) ↑**2009 Rock Our World Awards**

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Rock Our World Awards. Seen a new product that would change the industry? Seen a product application used in a way that was truly remarkable, whether simple or complex? Seen a project that knocked your socks off because of the level of collaboration required or the magic it created? Now is the chance to tell why it rocked your world.

Anyone in the industry may nominate a product, product application, or project, but an ESTA member must be involved as the designer, manufacturer, supplier, or collaborator. To be eligible, a product, product application, or project must have been produced or executed between October 1, 2007 and June 30, 2009. Items submitted for the 2008 awards may not be resubmitted.

To nominate, go to www.esta.org/RockOurWorldAwards and submit an entry online or download the form. The deadline for entries is July 1, 2009. For more information, e-mail rsweingen@esta.org or call the ESTA office at 212-244-1505.

[To Top](#) ↑**Publish Standard, Review Another**

This month:
 Costume Symposium
 CITT/ICST Conference
 Rock our World
 Standards

ESTA has published a new standard, and has made other draft standards available for public review on its website.

[ANSI E1.34 - 2009, Entertainment Technology - Measuring and Specifying the Slipperiness of Floors Used in Live Performance Venues](#), is now available. The new standard describes a very simple drag-sled for measuring the slipperiness of a performance floor, and two procedures to use with the sled. One procedure uses standardized stainless steel feet on the sled to give a coefficient of friction number that can be used to describe the floor in a general way. The second procedure measures the slipperiness with a performer's shoe sole materials.

[BSR E1.23 - 200x, Entertainment Technology - Design and Execution of Theatrical Fog Effects](#), is available for public review through June 22. The BSR E1.23 project is a revision of the existing ANSI E1.23 - 2006 standard which offers advice on the planning and execution of theatrical fog effects using glycol, glycerin, or white mineral oil fogs or mists in theatres, arenas, and other places of entertainment or public assembly. The revision project is to change the list of fog chemicals in the scope to better match those chemicals normally used in theatrical fog effects, and to better define the qualifications of those in charge of designing and executing the effects.

For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, technical standards manager, ESTA, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10001; phone 1-212-244-1505.

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Member Benefits

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Save on Books and Videos

Michelle L. Smith
Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Focal Press - 20% off all titles and free shipping

To order call 800-545-2522 (U.S. and Canada only) and mention offer code "93395" or order online at www.focalpress.com and enter "93395" in the offer code box.

Theatre Arts Video Library - 20% off TAVL produced instructional videos

To order call 800-456-8285 (U.S. and Canada only) or e-mail admin@theatreartsvideo.com and identify yourself as a USITT member. Visit www.theatreartsvideo.com for selection and general information.

Music Books Plus - 10% off any purchase from website

To order visit www.musicbooksplus.com and enter your USITT member number in the comments field. Or call 800-265-8481 and quote your member number when ordering.

[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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In Memoriam

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In Memoriam: Lighting Designer Tharon Musser

Delbert Unruh
USITT Publications Committee

Tharon Musser, considered the dean of American lighting design, died on April 19, 2009. She was 84 and had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for approximately 10 years. A Scotch drinkin', rough spoken, cigarette smokin' lady from Appalachia, she was equally beloved for her blunt, gruff manner, her boundless generosity, and her design artistry.

Born Kathleen Welland in Roanoke, Virginia in 1925, her parents died when she was a toddler, and she was placed in an orphanage at the age of two. In 1929, she was adopted by the Rev. George Musser and his wife, Hazel, who renamed her. After graduating from high school, she attended Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, and then the graduate technical design and lighting program at Yale Drama School.

After Yale, she moved to New York, where she helped start Studio 7, an experimental theatre. She also designed for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and designed dance programs at the 92nd Street Y, which led to her touring with the choreographer Jose Limon. She joined United Scenic Artists in 1956 and shortly after was asked to design the lighting for the first United States production of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Between 1956 and 1970 she designed the lighting for the Broadway productions of: *The Entertainer*, *J.B.*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Any Wednesday*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Mame*, *A Delicate Balance*, *The Birthday Party*, and *Applause*.

Beginning in 1970, Ms. Musser entered into her most creative and celebrated period when she lit such Broadway productions as *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Candide*, *Mack and Mabel*, *The Wiz*, *Pacific Overtures*, *The Act*, *Dreamgirls*, and, of course, *A Chorus Line*, which became a Broadway landmark playing for a total of 6,137 performances. The show also is notable for being the first Broadway production, at Ms. Musser's insistence, to install a permanent lighting bridge in the auditorium and to use the first computer controlled lighting console. She was nominated for the Tony Award for lighting design 10 times and received the award for *Follies*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Dreamgirls*.

Ms. Musser also trained a generation of lighting designers through her many assistants who, after attending "Musser University" as Ken Billington phrased it, went on to careers of their own. These include Mickey Kinsella, Anne Sullivan. Ken Billington, David F. Segal, Spencer Mosse, Jeff Davis, Richard Winkler, Curt Ostermann, Rick Belzer, Jo Mayer, Jeffery Schissler, Fred J. Kancock, Kirk Bookman, Gregg Marriner, Jackie Manassee, Betsy Adams, Vivien Leone, Robert Jared, Paul Palazzo, Kendall Smith, Douglas Cox, Brian Nason, David Lander, and Marilyn Rennagel, who became Ms. Musser's life partner and lived with her until her death.

In 2007, Ms. Musser was honored with the publication of *The Designs of Tharon Musser*, by USITT. Written by Del Unruh with Jeff Davis and Marilyn Rennagel, and profusely illustrated, the book chronicles the life of Ms. Musser from her beginnings to 1999 when she designed her last Broadway show, *The Lonesome West*. The book is available at the [USITT website](#).



Tharon Musser

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Initiative Announces New Training Session

The Joint Training Initiative of the ESTA Foundation and USITT announces a rigging safety training session to be held at Highline Performing Arts Center, Burien, Washington. The event will be hosted and co-produced by Highline PAC in association with Highline Public Schools.

This session is a three-day event designed for entertainment technicians at a basic to intermediate level and will be held Friday, July 24 to Sunday, July 26.

The course will be taught by ETCP Recognized Trainer Jay Glerum. His program, *The 4 K's of Stage Rigging*, will cover liability, forces and reactions (the physics of rigging), types and designs of hardware, proper operation, and inspection/maintenance issues. Also included will be discussions of motorized rigging, fire curtain rigging, and rigging math.

This session will count towards renewal credits for ETCP Certified technicians.

Course descriptions, fees and the registration form are available at www.estafoundation.org/seminars/schedule.php. For additional information, e-mail fstewart@estafoundation.org.

A very successful *Fall Protection and Rescue* session was held recently at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts in Bowie, Maryland. Nearly 40 attendees spent two intensive days with arena rigging specialist Rocky Paulson and MSA representative Morgan Neff.

Other training sessions include:

- [Eos Console Training](#), June 1 to 2 at Electronic Theatre Controls, Middleton, Wisconsin.
- The FUNdamentals of Electricity! June 5 to 7, at Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, Michigan

Additional events are in the planning stages for locations around the country. Details will be posted as soon as they are available. Remember to check the [Industry Training Events Calendar](#).

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Office Receives Visitors

The USITT staff had a very pleasant surprise in early May when Mark McKinney, vice president of sales of Lex Products, Inc., decided to drop in for a visit. Although Mr. McKinney declined the offer of refreshments, available to any member who stops in to say hello, it was great to see him and give him a tour of the offices, which are part of the Connective Corridor in Syracuse, New York.

Members of the Archive Committee took advantage of lovely spring weather to visit the office, too. Since Rick Stephens has been known to make remarks about the levels of snow when he visits during the winter, it was great to provide him with sunny skies and newly expanded space for his activities recording the history of USITT. Other members of the "archiving with Rick" crew were Lea Asbell-Swanger and Bill Browning.

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Professional Development for Staff

Michelle L. Smith, Membership & Ad Sales Manager, and Barbara E.R. Lucas, PR & Marketing Manager, were able to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the 2009 Marketing & Membership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland offered by ASAE & The Center. Both came back energized by learning of new ideas and finding that USITT has already implemented best practices and recommended strategies in many areas.

Also keeping up on best practices for non-profits was Carol B. Carrigan, Administrative & Finance Manager, who spent several days in Washington, D.C. attending the 2009 Finance & Business Operations Symposium, also offered by ASAE. The program, for seasoned financial and operational professionals, included tools for evaluating current practices and ideas for new initiatives.

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BMI Supply Selected as 3M Distributor

BMI Supply has been selected as a specialty distributor for 3M Bonding Products. 3M's broad line of adhesives offer superior strength, durability, and reliability for scenic and prop construction. BMI Supply is proud to include this premier brand alongside its diverse range of scenic paints, coatings, glues, artist materials, and more. Initial stock will include the popular Fastbond 30NF "Green" Glue, Super 77 Spray Adhesive, #78 Foam Spray Adhesive, #90 High Strength Spray Adhesive, and indispensable 5-way Penetrating Lubricant. BMI Supply has offices in New York and South Carolina.

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Names New President, Offers Batten Caps

Mike Murphy, executive vice president of **J.R. Clancy, Inc.**, has been named president of the rigging design and manufacturing company.

A veteran of the theatre rigging industry for more than 30 years, Mr. Murphy joined Clancy 12 years ago. His responsibilities have included administration of Clancy's International Standards Organization (ISO) 9001 activities, making him responsible for the development and implementation of Clancy's quality management program.



As president, he oversees sales, project management, production, and engineering for the company, while continuing to supervise Clancy's quality initiatives. He takes over the president's responsibilities from Bob Theis, who remains with the company as its chairman and chief executive officer.

Rigging operators can now identify their batten numbers more easily from the deck or the grid, using new writeable batten end caps provided by J. R. Clancy, Inc.

The bright yellow plastic end caps cover the ends of standard pipe battens and feature a writeable surface on which rigging technicians can record the batten number using a permanent marker. If additional line sets are added during production, the operator can simply move the end caps, adding the new batten's number on its end cap.

To order the new batten end caps, call J. R. Clancy at 800-836-1885, or e-mail Eric McAfee at ericmcafee@jrclancy.com.

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Debuts New Luminaire, Products Win Awards

Production Resource Group, LLC, (PRG) celebrated the debut of its Bad Boy luminaire on the recently completed first leg of the Oasis *Dig Out Your Soul* tour as well as the Gekko Kedo winning two awards.

From a Roman amphitheatre in Vienne near Lyon, France to stadiums in South America, with sold-out dates throughout Asia, Mexico, Western Europe, the United States, and the United Kingdom, Oasis has been literally touring the world with production support from PRG's Concert Touring group. Oasis' *Dig Out Your Soul* tour marks the largest the band has ever embarked on with stops in several countries for the first time, including dates in Lima, Peru and Taipei City, Taiwan.



PRG is the exclusive rental and sales distributor for Gekko Technology Ltd. products in North America. The Gekko Kedo won two awards at the recent 2009 NAB tradeshow in Las Vegas. The just-launched Gekko Kedo, a focusable luminaire powered by an LED source, won the *DV* magazine 2009 Black Diamond Award and *TV Technology* magazine's Mario Award for Innovation. For more information on the award-winning Gekko Technology Kedo as well as the whole Gekko product line, visit www.prg.com/market/tv-film/gekko-technology-ltd.

This month:

J.R. Clancy

PRG

Rose Brand

For more information on PRG, visit www.prg.com.

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A Community Garden Sprouts in Secaucus

Hartz Mountain Industries, owner of the building at 4 Emerson Lane, Secaucus, New Jersey, gave permission to its tenant, **Rose Brand**, to plant a community garden in celebration of Earth Day April 22.

The garden will occupy 360 square feet on the west side of the building with planned crops including vegetables, perennial herbs, and some flowers. Rose Brand employee volunteers will care for the garden and ultimately benefit from the food and herbs grown.

Rose Brand is the industry leader in theatrical fabrics, fabrications and supplies for the event, entertainment and display industries.

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Serapid Stage Lifts in China

Serapid, Inc., a supplier of stage lifts, orchestra pit lifts, and scenery wagon transfer systems for the entertainment industry, showcased its award-winning products at the Palm Expo May 28 through 31 at the China International Expo Center in Beijing, China.

The LinkLift, which was recently seen during the 2008 Olympic Opening Ceremonies in Beijing, accommodates high trim lifting applications quietly, smoothly, and safely. The square links work like building blocks to form a tower stack. The shape and locking technique of the links allow extra-high rigidity and strength. It is also able to absorb tensile forces, such as those found through the seismic vibrations or the wave motions on a cruise ship.

For more information about Serapid, visit www.serapid.com.

[To Top ↑](#)**TOMCAT Equipping *Wicked*, Tours**

Earlier this year, **TOMCAT USA** completed work on equipment for the second national tour of *Wicked*, provided equipment for Sarah Brightman's Symphony tour, and launched a new product line of truss.

This tour of *Wicked* will continue with stops in Birmingham, Alabama; Jacksonville, Florida; Norfolk, Virginia; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Memphis, Tennessee. Additional cities will be announced in the future.

When the time came to create the setting for Sarah Brightman's Symphony tour, the design team for the world famous soprano turned to TOMCAT to fabricate custom stage components and create the lavish settings that have become the hallmark of Sarah Brightman concerts. The tour kicked off in November 2008 with dates throughout North America and played a series of dates across Asia through April.

TOMCAT is introducing a new product line of truss, (core). This product line initially consists of 12" x 12", 12" x 18", and 20.5" x 20.5" box truss. The focus was to develop a stronger, slightly lighter and ultimately less expensive box truss based on market demands.

For more information on TOMCAT, visit the company's [website](#). TOMCAT GLOBAL is part of the [Vitec Group plc](#).

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TOMCAT USA

TMB

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas

Wybron, Inc.

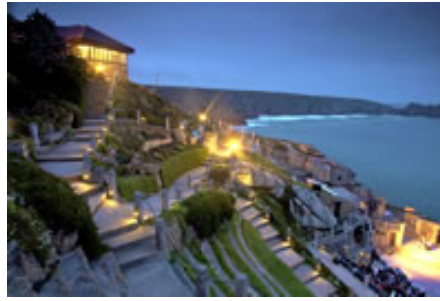
Cobalt Studios

Thern, Inc.



Nestling against the dramatic backdrop of the Cornish coast, almost at Britain's most southerly point, lies the Minack Theatre, a gloriously visual outdoor performance venue.

Northern Light recently completed the upgrade of the house lighting, which included cabling infrastructure, fixture renewal and DMX distribution.



New Blues System LED fittings were manufactured by Global Design Solutions Ltd. (GDS) and supplied by exclusive distributor **TMB**.

Find out more about Northern Light at www.northernlight.co.uk. Learn more about Blues System and other innovative and exciting products from TMB at www.tmb.com.

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Institute Announces Summer Plans

It is all about the experience!

This summer's course offerings by **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV)** are set to include Drafting/CAD, Theatrical Rigging, Automated Rigging, Lighting Technology, Moving Lights, Sound Technology, Special Effects, and Make-up with each course formatted to an intensive five-day segment. Each segment consists of 40 contact hours which is equivalent to a three-hour class that meets once a week for a semester in a traditional educational setting. Each attendee will be evaluated at the completion of each session, and a positive evaluation will result in a certificate. Additionally, attendees of the full eight-week program will have the opportunity to qualify for the *prix d'or* in Technical Training.

As SILV begins its third year of training, the Clark County School District of Las Vegas has agreed to be an operations partner, and Gary Sessa, secondary fine arts project facilitator for theatre and dance for the district, continues to serve as liaison. As a result, CCSD will host SILV in the theatre and ancillary spaces of the Bonanza High School.

For more information, visit www.stagecraftinstitute.com or call 702-388-7458 or 702-966-9805.

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Wybron Offers Gobos Through iPhone

A new iPhone application by **Wybron, Inc** packs more than 1,500 gobos into a sleek device that fits in the user's pocket, and Apollo gels and gobos are being added. The Moiré Gobo Library lets users browse, search, and experiment with A-size gobos from GAM and Lee.

More than 1,300 Apollo gobos have joined the Moiré Gobo Library, and 150 Apollo gels will be integrated into Wybron's award-winning Gel Swatch Library. The updated version of the gobo library, available now, also features 500 gobos from InLight Gobos. With the addition of InLight and Apollo, the gobo library now includes more than 3,300 different patterns.



Wybron's Gel Swatch Library was recently named one of Live Design magazine's Products of the Year for 2008-09. It took home an ESTA Member's Choice Award from LDI in October 2008.

To buy the Moiré Gobo Library for \$9.99, visit Apple's App Store through the icon on the iPhone or iPod touch, or go through iTunes.

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Offers Teacher Training

Would you, or someone you know, like to know more about structure and content for a theatrical scenic painting class at the college level?

Cobalt Studios will offer a course taught by Susan Crabtree and Pam Knauert Lavarney from June 22 to 29. It will address how to create structure and content of a theatrical scenic painting class.

Cobalt Studios will also offer a seminar on working with students painting scenery for high school plays July 6 to 10. This will be taught by Joe Rial and Sean O'Skea.

For more information, click [here](#); call 845-583-7025, or e-mail mail@cobaltstudios.net.

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New Theatre Division Launched

Thern, Inc. announced the launch of its new theatre division – Thern Stage Equipment. TSE is a fully owned and operated division of Thern, Inc., bringing Thern's reputation for manufacturing excellence and customer satisfaction to the theatre and entertainment market.

TSE is dedicated to working closely with customers to fully understand their applications and provide high quality products that meet their needs. With a continually growing line of products available, TSE is able to provide theatre operators with hoisting and rigging solutions to best fit their applications in venues large or small. In addition to winches and hoists, TSE is proud to offer top quality curtain track from Hall Stage. TSE can be found online at www.thernstage.com.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2008, Thern, Inc. is a major manufacturer of winches and cranes for a wide variety of commercial markets. Learn more about Thern Stage Equipment products at www.thernstage.com, e-mail info@thernstage.com, or phone 1-800-553-2204.

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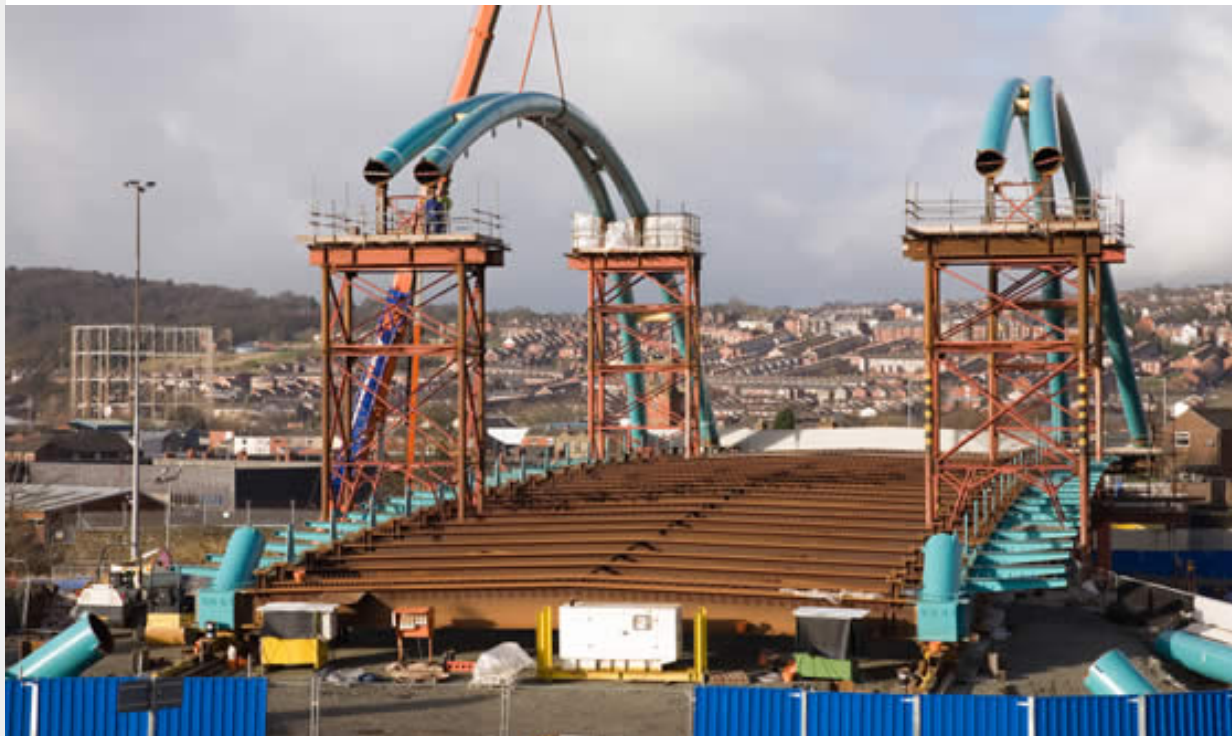
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Groups Off and Running To Transform Institute

Carl Lefko
USITT President

The response to my request for volunteers to participate in the next steps to transform USITT from its current structure was both unanticipated and gratifying. More than 40 members expressed their willingness to assist with our search for an Executive Director and the continuing work needed to shift to a governance model.

These individuals (including members of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, representatives from the corporate sector, students, and individuals who are not currently part of our leadership) answered the call to assist with our transition efforts. It is reassuring to know that volunteers are “alive and well” and willing to devote their time to improving USITT. This support has allowed us to enlarge the Transition Advisory Team (TAT) by adding subcommittees as we begin the next phase of the transformation.

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, in her role as chair of both the overall By-Laws Committee and the expanded TAT By-Laws subcommittee, has initiated an extensive review of the By-Laws in a effort to realign our rules of operation with the Board’s directive to move toward a governance structure with an executive director. Members of this group include Pat Dennis, Mitch Hefter, Lawrence Hill, Jean Montgomery, and Charles Williams.

Dan Culhane is chairing the Executive Director Search subcommittee which will identify a search firm to assist in our efforts to hire an Executive Director, and then recommend a candidate for that position. The team has developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the first part of their task, and plans to have a firm identified and the search underway later this spring. Joe Aldridge, Bill Byrnes, Andi Lyons, Michael Gross, Ray Kent, and Sherry Wagner-Henry round out the subcommittee.

The By-Laws subcommittee will be working closely with the Policies and Procedures subcommittee chaired by Carolyn Satter and the Job Description subcommittee chaired by Jack Feivou to realign our organizational structure and meet the challenges for the next 50 years.

Vickie Scott and David Krajec join Ms. Satter’s subcommittee and Mark Shanda and David Grindle are working with Mr. Feivou on job descriptions. Each of these committees has

begun their tasks and has been asked to report on their progress in late June. I again thank each of the individuals agreeing to serve as part of our Transition Advisory Team on these vital subcommittees.

[Click here for a complete list of TAT subcommittees.](#)

One block at a time, USITT is building a bridge to the next 50 years. But first we must celebrate our first 50 years. The countdown has started and in just 10 short months we will be celebrating USITT's 50th anniversary at the 2010 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Kansas City, Missouri.

Start making your plans now for the largest birthday bash most of us will ever have the opportunity to experience.

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Plan Fall Master Classes

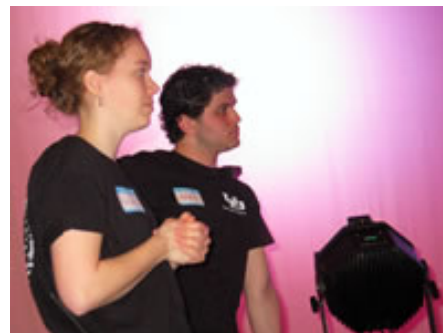
The Southeast Regional Section recently announced the Fall Master Classes will be hosted by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on September 3 to 5. So start clearing your calendars and get ready to head to North Carolina. Check the [USITT-Southeast website](#) or contact Chip Haas at dcehaas@uncg.edu for more information as the summer progresses.

[To Top](#) ↑**University of Buffalo Site of Spring Fling**

Nearly 100 students, faculty, staff, and professionals enjoyed a full day of sessions on costumes, lighting, set construction, and more at a day and evening hosted by the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University at Buffalo. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest LED lighting technologies with demonstrations as well as examine fixtures and make side-by-side comparisons.

The preparations for the Configuration Dance Theatre performance that evening provided the opportunity to get tips and tricks on lighting and costumes for dance from the people who light and costume Lehrer Dance, Configuration Dance Theatre, and others. As dance pieces were being cued, Lynne Koscielniak, director of design technology, explained the process and the theory of dance lighting as it was happening. Exposing the tricks of keeping dancers unexposed, Cindy Darling, costume technician, and Donna Massimo, costume shop manager, conducted a lively discussion of structuring costume for dance – making things do the unexpected. Students learned about the upcoming 2011 Prague Quadrennial and the available student opportunities. There was also a first Square-Off -- a session which pitted computer-aided drafting and hand drafting head-to-head.

The organization and management of the day-long event was student led. Presenters ranged from the members of IATSE to faculty, staff, and students. The Upstate New York Regional Section now offers four meeting times. Fall Kick Off, Mid-Winter Job Fair, and Spring Fling as well as the annual meeting in conjunction with the USITT Annual Conference and Stage Expo. A summer event is in the works.

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Modeling with the Masters

Mark Wethington
Scene Design Commission

The "Luck of the Irish" was with the participants of the *From Model to Monumental* PDW on St. Patrick's day this past March. All had the good fortune to be learning from some of the best scenic modelers out there. And for those that couldn't make the early start to the 49th Annual USITT Conference, they certainly showed up for the encore!

The participants of the model making PDW, *From Model to Monumental*, began at 9 a.m. for this day-long intensive workshop. Tom Umfrid of the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music - Theatre Design and Production, started the day going through his process of using Google SketchUp and Adobe Photoshop in conjunction with physical models as a communication tool between the director and the designer. He gave several examples of what he calls *Sketch Models* and explained the steps in the process that he uses when creating them.

The next presenter was Brian Ruggaber, also of UC-CCM, who got the participants hands dirty working with brass and soldering techniques. Mr. Ruggaber helped demystify the seemingly daunting challenge of working with brass soldering techniques with a show-and-tell demonstration of cutting and bending the metal. He then demonstrated the tools and materials needed for soldering brass to create visually delicate but physically strong model components. The class then broke out into individual participants practicing the techniques that were taught. Brian and others were on hand to help with individual instruction as we approached the lunch hour.

After lunch, Paul Shortt, Professor Emeritus of UC-CCM took participants through his process of using models in his process of designing. Using many examples of models from past productions, he showed how a model can be used as a collaborative tool in the discovery process of design and not just as a finished representation of a completed work. Later in the day, Mr. Shortt



Those attending the Scene Design Commission's Professional Development Workshop, *From Model to Monumental*, at the 2009 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, Ohio had the opportunity to observe a master at work. Later in the PDW they had the opportunity to have the experience hands-on.

Photos/Mark Wethington

divulged some of his favorite tricks and techniques that he uses for creating his models including using picture hanging wire as a starting point for creating vines and also using hot glue as a sculpting medium. The participants even got a chance to explore these techniques in their full scale applications up in the CCM scene shop.

For those who were not able to attend the full day PDW, Mr. Shortt gave his USITT colleagues a curtain call on Thursday with a session titled *Quick & Dirty Model-making*. Huge crowds turned out for this conference session and even the standing-room-only areas were packed with conference attendees. With the help of a video screen, Paul was able to talk and walk the audience through many of his models and the techniques he uses to build them. But more than that Paul discussed some of his design philosophies and tales from his past.

Participants in the PDW were able to take with them the materials that they used during the workshop along with handouts from the presenters detailing the techniques that were presented. A handout was also available at the conference session. All considered, there was plenty of exciting information for those interested in model making and how models are used in the design process at this year's USITT Conference.

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Jules Fisher's dynamic presentation on his career in lighting design brought information (and a sense of adventure) during the USITT 2009 Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. His session was interrupted by a building-wide fire alarm, which was determined to be an error. To see the complete session, [click here](#).

Photo/R. Finkelstein

The Lighting Commission – Cincy Wrap-up!

Vickie Scott Lighting
VC for Programming, Cincinnati 2009

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.

Kicking off the fun for the USITT Lighting Commission Wednesday morning, *Magic Sheets AREN'T Magic!* session chair David Griffith brought together a panel of lighting design professionals who discussed the ins and outs of their personal approach to magic sheets and why it works for them.

Lighting Networks 101.101.101.101, chaired by Todd Profitt, offered an amazing introduction to the set-up and troubleshooting of lighting networks. Although session chair Deb Lockwood came down with laryngitis right before the session, *LD / Programmer Communication* brought together a lighting designer and a programmer who explored the communication process and vocabulary necessary to "pimp" the show. In *Architectural Dimming and Control*, session chair Buddy Combs presented some of today's leading professionals who examined the different philosophies and directions in architectural dimming and control. With the session *Media Servers*, chair Ann Archbold and her panelist reminded us, "It's not your Momma's slide projector anymore!"

Led by session chair Bryan Stevenson, *Entering the Workforce / What's in Your Toolbox?* brought together industry professionals who discussed the skills needed to enter the fields of theatrical, concert, opera, industrial and theme park lighting design and the differences between them. In *Alternative Light Sources / Tricks of the Trade*, session chair Todd Studebaker and his panelists took us well beyond Tungsten-Halogen and into electroluminescence (ooooohh aaahhh). *Seminar for Young Lighting Designers: Being an Assistant*, co-sponsored with the Gilbert Hemsley Lighting Programs and wrangled by Rich Dunham, gave us an in-depth look at building an assistant design career in the New York market. *Other Duties As Assigned*, chaired by Steve Holliday, helped us to diagnose and hopefully treat our "multiple responsibility disorder."

In the session *Before the Drafting: Developing your Lighting Design*, session chair Jennifer Read and her panelists shared a variety of tips and approaches for communicating the visual of a lighting design. Last, but certainly not least, in *The Designs of Jules Fisher*, Mr. Fisher, subject of USITT's latest monograph and 2009 Distinguished Achievement in Lighting Design recipient, gave us a personally guided tour through his distinguished career, design philosophies, and creative process while sharing examples from *Le Rêve*, his fabulous production at the Wynn Las Vegas Hotel and Casino.

The Lighting Commission had an action packed and fun filled conference; oh and some Cincinnati-style chili, too!

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Scene Design Commission Leadership Update

Following is an update on the Scene Design Commission leadership and their e-mail addresses. Commission leaders are eager to hear from those interested in assisting with the mission and work of the commission.

The mission of the Scene Design Commission is to: further an interest in the areas of scene design, scenic painting, and properties; provide easily accessible information about the latest innovations and trends within the field; and encourage the improvement and evolution of the teaching of design.

- **Karen Maness:** *Co-Commissioner*, kmaness@mail.utexas.edu
- **Frank Ludwig:** *Co-Commissioner*, fpludwig@viterbo.edu
- **Michelle Harvey:** *Vice-Commissioner for Programming*, harveymd@exchange.uta.edu
- **Robert Berls:** *Vice-Commissioner for Health & Safety*, rberls@unca.edu
- **Nadine Charlsen:** *Past Commissioner, Co-Vice-Commissioner for Projects and Symposia*, nadinelc@nyc.rr.com
- **Susan Crabtree:** *Co Vice-Commissioner for Scenic Art*, susan.crabtree@colorado.edu
- **Joan Newhouse:** *Co Vice-Commissioner for Scenic Art*, chzypntr@yahoo.com
- **Dennis L. Hassan:** *Vice-Commissioner for Computers*, dennis.hassan@usu.edu
- **Heidi F. Hoffer:** *Vice-Commissioner for Publications Liaison*, heidi.hoffer@okstate.edu
- **Casey Kearns:** *Vice-Commissioner for Design*, ckearns@uwyo.edu
- **Rich Larsen:** *Vice-Commissioner for Education*, larsenr1@scranton.edu
- **John Lavarney:** *Co Vice-Commissioner for Props*, john.lavarney@wright.edu
- **Elizabeth Popiel:** *Co Vice-Commissioner for Props*, scenicedesigner@hotmail.com
- **Ken Martin:** *Co-Vice-Commissioner for Projects and Symposia*, kmartin@coastal.edu
- **Treva Reimer:** *Vice-Commissioner for International Issues*, reimert@central.edu
- **Panela Leung:** *Vice-Commissioner for Student Affairs*, kansascityscenic@gmail.com
- **Arden Weaver:** *Vice-Commissioner for Heritage*, aweaver@d.umw.edu
- **Rob Eastman-Mullins:** *Portfolio Review*, robdmem@alumni.umw.edu
- **Ann Cadaret:** *Portfolio Review*, ann_cadaret@pba.edu

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Kansas City Offers Spectacular Setting

Helen Willard
Stage Expo Sales Manager

The 50th Annual USITT Conference & Stage Expo will be held in the Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities in Kansas City, Missouri. A 1,000,000 square foot, multi-venue facility, the convention center boasts nearly 450,000 square feet of exhibit space, with Bartle Hall featuring 388,800 of column-free exhibit space on one level.

A \$150 million expansion and technology upgrade was recently completed, including improvements to 45 state-of-the-art meeting rooms. The new Grand Ballroom is one of the 10 largest convention center ballrooms in the country.

The Municipal Auditorium, an art deco landmark, includes a 2,400-seat Music Hall, an arena that seats 10,700 people, 46,000 square feet of exhibit space on two levels, and an octagonal 5,000 square foot Little Theatre. Additional facilities include the Conference Center and Barney Allis Plaza, an outdoor plaza and sculpture garden. Hidden but accessible is underground parking for 1,000 cars.

USITT Stage Expo 2010 will take place in Bartle Halls A, B, & C, a 190,000+ square foot column-free exhibit hall on level three of the convention center. This large exhibit hall will have a 40 foot stage as the centerpiece of the show. USITT's 50th anniversary will be celebrated with a variety of special exhibits focusing on the changes in design and technology from 1960 to 2010.

Meeting rooms are located on level two of the convention center, with direct access to the exhibit halls via four escalators. Wednesday through Friday, each Conference day will begin with a blockbuster general session, followed by a block of Stage Expo only time. Program sessions will be held each afternoon, with various special events and receptions scheduled each evening.

The spectacular 46,000 square foot Grand Ballroom celebrates Kansas City's rivers and fountains with water-themed walls, ceiling and carpet, and features a controllable natural day-lighting system, with a 38 foot high glass wall offering dramatic views to the south. The LED lighting system allows nearly unlimited color combinations for dramatic lighting of the space.

The headquarters hotel for the 2010 Annual Conference & Stage Expo is the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, which includes the historic Muehlebach tower. Additional room blocks have been booked at the Crowne Plaza, Aladdin Holiday Inn, and Hilton President Hotels.

More than 90 exhibitors have already reserved space for next year's show in Kansas City. For more information on exhibiting at Stage Expo 2010, please contact hpwillard@aol.com.

More than \$150 million has been spent to make the Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facility in Kansas City, Missouri into a state of the art place for meetings. USITT will hold its Annual Conference & Stage Expo there March 31 to April 3, 2010.



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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*
- Joe Aldridge, *Vice-President for Conferences*
- Alexandra Bonds, *Vice-President for International Activities*
- Michael Mehler, *Vice-President for Programming*
- Vacant, *Vice-President for Promotions & Development*
- Holly Monsos, *Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters*
- Daniel Denhart, *Vice-President for Special Operations*
- Sylvia Hillyard Pannell, *Immediate Past President*

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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
- John S. Uthoff
- Monica Weinzapfel

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- Automatic Devices Company
- Barbizon Lighting Company
- Cirque du Soleil
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- J.R. Clancy, Inc.
- Clear-Com Communication Systems
- Creative Handbook
- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Disney Entertainment Productions
- Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
- Electronics Diversified, LLC
- Entertainment Services & Technology Association (ESTA)
- Entertainment Technology
- Future Light
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- Hall Associates Flying Effects
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- KM Fabrics, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- *Live Design Magazine*/LDI Show
- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Morris Architects
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
- Protech Theatrical Services, Inc.
- Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
- Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
- SeaChanger by Ocean Optics
- SECOA
- Stage Research, Inc.
- StageRight Corporation
- Steeldeck Inc.
- Strand Lighting
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Vari*Lite
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Vortek, a division of Daktronics
- Walt Disney Entertainment
- Wenger Corporation
- ZFX, Inc.

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- AKT3 Company
- ALPS/Advanced Lighting & Production Services, Inc.
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
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- A V Pro, Inc.
- Bandit Lites, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- California Institute of the Arts
- Center Theatre Group
- Checkers Industrial Products Inc.
- Chicago Spotlight, Inc.
- Cobalt Studios
- Colorado Springs Fine Art Center
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Cosler Theatre Design
- The Crosby Group, Inc.
- Dazian Fabrics, LLC
- Designlab Chicago
- DeSisti Lighting - Desmar Corporation
- Dragon & Phoenix Software, Inc.
- Entertainment Lighting Services
- Fisher Theatrical, LLC
- Foy Invention Enterprises, Inc.
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- Gerriets International Inc.
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- GRT Genesis
- Harkness Screens (USA) Ltd.
- I. Weiss
- InCord Ltd.
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- Kupo Industrial Corp.
- LCS Series (Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.)
- Le Maitre Special Effects Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lex Products Corp.
- Lighting & Electronics, Inc.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company, Inc.
- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- The MAGNUM Companies, Ltd.
- Make-Up Designory
- Mehron, Inc.
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Mutual Hardware
- NetherCraft
- Niscon Inc.
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- On Location Lighting Systems, Inc.
- Ontario Staging Limited
- Orange Events
- OSRAM SYLVANIA
- Pathway Connectivity
- Penn State University
- Period Corsets
- PNTA, Pacific Northwest Theatre Associates
- Prolyte Products Group
- RC4 Wireless/Soundsculpture Inc.
- The Rigging Partnership
- Robert Juliat America
- Royal Caribbean International
- Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.
- Schuler Shook

- Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.
- Selecon
- Serapid, Inc.
- Shanghai American School
- Show Distribution Group Inc.
- Siong Ann Engineering Pte Ltd.
- Skjonberg Controls, Inc.
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- South Dakota State University
- Spotlight S.R.L.
- Stage Decoration & Supplies, Inc.
- Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc.
- Stage Technologies
- Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- StageLight, Inc.
- StageSpot
- Staging Concepts, Inc.
- Strong Entertainment Lighting
- Studio T+L LLC
- Theatre Arts Video Library
- Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC
- Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
- Thern Inc.
- Thinkwell Design & Production
- James Thomas Engineering
- Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
- TMB
- Tobins Lake Sales
- TOMCAT USA, Inc.
- Topac Inc.
- Turning Star Inc.
- Union Connector Co, Inc.
- VectorWorks Spotlight by NNA
- Wayne State University Dept. of Theatre
- Worthington Kilbourne High School
- Wybron, Inc.

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Table for Two at the Gratitude Café

By Jay Sheehan

Each year, during the weeks following the USITT conference, I take time to reflect and take a moment to be grateful. Grateful to the USITT committees and staff that always put together a diverse and engaging program, grateful to the students and faculty that I come in contact with, and especially grateful to my colleagues on the Management Commission.

As I returned home, I began to put the list together of people that I needed to send a thank you note to. As I thought more about my growing list of "thank yous," I wondered to myself if students and faculty, with the immense amount of technological tools at their fingertips, still sent thank you cards in the mail. Have Facebook and Twitter replaced the art of the hand written note? Does an e-mail blast "thank you" suffice in today's world of "electronic gratitude"? What happened to the art of writing thank you notes by hand?

I saw a class experiment beginning to unfold.

With this newfound intrigue, I returned to San Diego State and asked my Intro to Stage Management class a simple question: When was the last time they hand wrote a thank you card to someone that they were grateful to? Not an email "thank you"...not a text "thank you," but a note with an actual stamp and put in the mailbox. The answers were a surprise to me. Out of 11 students, only three had sent thank you cards in the past year.

At that moment I shared my thoughts of the past week, and we decided on the experiment. Within the next week, every student was to find one person he was grateful to and send him a thank you card in the mail. The students all participated, and we eagerly waited to see what came from it.

Two weeks later the results were in and impressive. All 11 students had received some type of positive feedback about their notes -- a "thank you for the thank you." Four reconnected with people that they were grateful to, but had somehow burnt a bridge along the way, and were now on the way to mending relationships. Two actually got gig offers as they happened to pop back up in people's lives at the right time.

I am happy to report that, in class that day, gratitude was the topic of stage management. The students began to understand the concept and how to apply it on a more regular basis with

their production teams and shop staffs. It was a topic that, while not on the syllabus, became a very important spontaneous and useful process which we will continue in the course work in the future.

We should all take a moment to be grateful to someone in our lives...and let them know how they have affected us. Send a card; people appreciate it! The proof is in the classroom.

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