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Sightlines

February 2010

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The Royal Conservatory of Music, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning in Toronto, Ontario, Canada was selected as the only Honor Award winner in the 2010 USITT Architecture Awards competition, the highest award. Complete information about this award-winning center and the six Merit Award recipients is found inside [this issue of *Sightlines*](#). Photos of the Merit winners are in The Last Word of this issue of *Sightlines*.

Photo/TELUS Center for Performance and Learning

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The Royal Conservatory of Music, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, will receive the USITT Honor Award at the 2010 Annual Conference. The award, along with six Merit Awards, will be presented Friday evening, April 2, at a USITT Architecture Commission reception.

Photo/TELUS Center for Performance and Learning

Seven 2010 Architecture Award Winners Named

One entertainment venue has been selected to receive the prestigious USITT Honor Award in the 2010 USITT Architecture Awards competition and six other projects will receive Merit Awards. The winners were chosen from the 36 entries from 12 states, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and Canada.

On the selection committee were: Barton Myers, FAIA, president/design principal of Barton Myers & Associates of Los Angeles, California; D.J. Palladino, award-winning arts writer and editor based in Santa Barbara, California; and Damian J. Doria, FASA, one of Artec's principal auditorium designers and principal acousticians.

Projects were evaluated on creativity, contextual resonance, functional operation, exploration of new technologies, and community contribution. All projects have been completed since January 1, 2000.

Honor Award

The Royal Conservatory of Music, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning; owned by Royal Conservatory of

Music, Dr. Peter Simon, president; in Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects; Anne Minors Performance Consultants, theatre consultants; Sound Space Design with Aerocoustics Engineering, Ltd., acoustical consultants.

Merit Awards

Vukovich Center for Communication Arts; owned by Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pennsylvania; Polshek Partnership Architects; Theatre Projects Consultants, theatre consultants; Jaffe Holden, acoustical consultant.

Henry Miller's Theatre on West 43rd Street, New York, New York; owned by One Bryant Park, LLC, a joint venture between the Durst Organization and Bank of America; Developed by Durst Organization; Cook and Fox Architects; Adamson Associates Architects, associate architects; Fisher Dachs Associates, theatre consultants; Jaffe Holden, acoustical consultant.

Winspear Opera House in Dallas, Texas; owned by AT&T Performing Arts Center; Foster + Partners, architect; Kendall Heaton Associates, associate architect; Theatre Projects Consultants, theatre consultants; Sound Space Design, acoustical consultant.

Theatre De Quat'sous in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; owned by Theatre De Quat'sous; Les Architectes Fab G, architect; Trizart Alliance, theatre consultants; Legault Davidson, acoustical consultant.

Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and Sameuli Theater in Costa Mesa, California; owned by Orange County Performing Arts Center; Pelli Clarke Pelli, architect; Gruen Associates, associate architect; Artec Consultants, theatre and acoustical consultants.

Iwaki Performing Arts Center in Fukushima, Japan; owned by Iwaki City; Naomi Sato Architects & Shimizu Corporation, architect; Theatre Workshop, theatre consultant; Nagata Acoustics, acoustical consultant.

The Awards will be presented Friday evening April 2 at the 50th USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Kansas City, Missouri during the Architecture Award Review, Presentation and Reception. The award-winning projects will be featured in a special exhibit at Stage Expo. After the Conference, the display will be made available for exhibition at schools and other institutions across the United States.

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ETCP Exams Offered at Conference, Infocomm

The ETCP Council announces that paper and pencil test administrations are scheduled for 2010 at the USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Kansas City, Missouri and at InfoComm in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is an outstanding opportunity to show skills and become certified.

Many major venues and employers across North America are now requiring ETCP Certified Technicians for lead positions. ETCP Certification gives employers independent confirmation of the abilities and skills of technicians.

All three ETCP examinations will be offered at USITT in Kansas City. Application deadline is March 1.

- **Entertainment Electrical Exam:** 9 a.m. March 31
- **Arena Rigging Exam:** 9 a.m. April 1
- **Theatre Rigging Exam:** 2 p.m. April 1

Arena Rigging and the Entertainment Electrician examinations will be offered at InfoComm in Las Vegas. Application deadline is May 7.

- **Arena Rigging Exam:** 9 a.m. June 9
- **Entertainment Electrical Exam:** 2 p.m. June 9

For more information, eligibility requirements, or applications, contact Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP Certification Manager, at certification@esta.org or 212-244-1505. Complete information is also available on the [ETCP website](http://www.etcpcouncil.org). The ETCP 50-question practice examinations are available at www.esta.org/etcppracticeexams.

Examinations may also be taken at a computer at over 190 testing centers in the U.S. and Canada on most business days.



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March 16 Deadline for PQ '11 Submissions

March 16 is the deadline for submissions to the USITT Prague Quadrennial USA 2011. Now is the time to check out the [website](#) and submit designs.

Costume designers who have designed costumes from non-traditional materials with unusual silhouettes should make a note on the submission form to be considered for Extreme Costume, an additional exhibit that will be juried by the Czech organizers of the PQ.

In 2011, more than 50 countries will be represented. The National and Student exhibits will be housed in the galleries of the Veletržní Palace located up the street from the Industrial Palace, the beloved location of PQ's past, recently damaged by a fire.

Everyone, whether they participate or not, should consider attending this extraordinary event in Prague June 16 to 26, 2011. Meet other designers and theatre people from around the globe, take part in Scenofest activities, and enjoy the beauty of Prague. Photos of PQ 2007 can be viewed at: www.rfdesigns.org/photostage/pq.htm or picasaweb.google.com/finkelrs.

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Project to Document U.S. Costume Programs

A special session will highlight a new project of the Costume Design & Technology Commission. The Commission, in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Institute, is beginning the Costume Legacy Project. The goal of this project is to research and document the "genealogy" associated with academic costume programs in the United States after 1930. The focus will be on identifying professors and/or mentors of costume design and technology and their students, mentees, and protégées. The Costume Legacy Project will be unveiled on April 1 in a session honoring some of the first American costume educators: Lucy Barton, Frank Bevan, and Bernice Prisk.

Currently, Commission members are researching and conducting interviews of students and teachers of the first and second generation of costume teachers from the 1940s through the 1970s. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact a Commission member.

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This month:
Prague Quadrennial
Costume Programs
By Design Day
Plugfest

"By Design Day" 2010 Coming

Following a hugely successful first joint venture fundraiser this year between Behind the Scenes and Light Relief in the United Kingdom, the two charities will do it again in 2010! And once again they have the full backing of award-winning designers Paule Constable, Ken Billington, and Ken Posner, along with Light Relief's co-founder Rick Fisher.

Established in 2007 as Light Relief Day and now renamed By Design Day, April 24 is the day each year that people in the professional design business give back to help others less fortunate than themselves. The first joint venture raised \$11,500; \$5,700 for Behind the Scenes and £3,450 for Light Relief. The money came through a variety of channels including royalties from Broadway and West End shows, touring productions of every sort, donations on Facebook, and even bucket collections from audience members.

To make the 2010 event even more successful, the organizers are giving designers on both sides of the Atlantic advance warning of By Design Day 2010 on April 24 in honor of the late Tony Gottelier, co-founder of Light Relief. Lighting, video, scenic, sound, and costume designers are asked to donate their royalties for the day, while others in non-royalty situations give what they are able.

Visit [The ESTA Foundation](#) or [Light Relief](#) for more information.

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Plugfest Returned by Popular Demand!

Last July's Protocols Plugfest was an enormous success for the ESTA Technical Standards program, attracting many first time attendees who brought several new control products to test and debug control protocol interoperability.

Members of the Control Protocols Working Group are also event attendees so the Plugfest has become the industry's single leading resource in having protocol implementation questions authoritatively answered.

The ESTA Technical Standards Program held another "plugfest" as part of its January conference January 22 through 24 in Westlake, Texas. The event provides a working protocols lab for manufacturers' engineers to see if their products will co-exist and communicate with the products of other manufacturers and, if required, find out on the spot what is wrong, fix it, and try again.

The ESTA Controls Protocol Working Groups supported the following standards during this event: *ANSI E1.11 – 2008, USITT DMX512-A, ANSI E1.17 – 2006, Architecture for Control Networks (ACN), ANSI E1.20 – 2006, RDM-Remote Device Management over USITT DMX512 Networks, and ANSI E1.31 – 2009, Lightweight streaming protocol for transport of DMX512 using ACN.*

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In Memoriam – Robert S. Barber

Robert S. Barber, president and CEO of BMI Supply, a Sustaining member of USITT, died unexpectedly January 1. He was 54 years old.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, he grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida. He lived in Queensbury, New York. Mr. Barber earned his BA at Limestone College and went on to earn an MFA in technical theatre at Florida State University.

A passionate businessman, he took great pride in serving his customers across the theatre and entertainment industry. BMI Supply will continue operating with the customer service and overall business principles upon which Mr. Barber founded the company. He was a generous supporter of USITT and its Regional Sections, and members may remember him for his participation in past Annual Conference & Stage Expo events.

His great passion was cooking "Real Southern BBQ," including savory chicken and hickory smoked ribs with slathering sauce. He loved to share these treats with family, friends, and business associates.

He volunteered as a board member of Queensbury Youth Baseball and Softball for many years including umpiring and running softball tournaments. In addition to donating his time, he was a generous financial donor to many local causes.

Mr. Barber was a member of the Adirondack Baseball Umpires Association. He also umpired softball and aspired to be a varsity official.

He was predeceased by his parents, William and Ida Shaw Barber, and his sister, Ida May Summers.

Survivors include his wife, Cindy and two children, Alexander and Christina; and his sister, Amelia Clement and her husband, John.

Mr. Barber's family and the staff of BMI Supply express their deepest appreciation for the kind words and support that they have received.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.carletonfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, donations in his



Photo/ Monica L. Merritt

memory may be made to the American Red Cross, 74 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY 12801 or to a local chapter of the American Red Cross.

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Celebrate the Future by Donating

Lawrence J. Hill*USITT @ 50 Co-Chair*

USITT is coming to the end of a unique fundraising period -- five years of building a larger financial base in support of major portions of our mission: research, international activities, awards, and recognition. At the beginning of the campaign, the Board of Directors was approached by USITT members interested in establishing a fund that would provide funding for future ventures of Institute--a financial base for the future dreams and aspirations.

The USITT Fund, which is permanently restricted, is currently accepting contributions to build its core principal. Interest earned will be dedicated to supporting future USITT projects. The fund was established by gifts specifically recognizing the Institute's 50th Anniversary.

Estate gifts and cash contributions to date total \$109,000, a result of the immediate rush of support for this method of Securing Our Future.

These individuals have cast their "vote" in support of the Institute's future plans. As the 50th year celebration approaches, consider a contribution to support this special project that will enhance the Institute 20 years from now.

Make a secure [online contribution](#) or [download a form](#) to mail. Or call 800-938-7488, ext 102 to contribute by phone.

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Seek Nominations for 2011 Officers, Board

Sylvia Hillyard Pannell

Immediate Past President & Chair, Nominations Committee

Even as voting continues in the 2010 USITT elections, members are being encouraged to make nominations for the 2011 election slate.

Taking an active role in identifying the future leadership of the organization is especially critical as USITT moves into its next half-century. USITT needs the help of members to help identify emerging leaders.

To allow time for a complete preview, forms are due by March 1.

Member nomination of candidates for the USITT 2011 slate of officers and Directors at Large will guide and inform the Nominations Committee in selecting effective future leadership for USITT and “securing the future.”

Work is underway now to find candidates for positions on the USITT Board of Directors to take office July 1, 2011. Anyone with questions should e-mail Ms. Pannell, Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Posts for which nominees are being sought, and their current duties, taken from the Bylaws, are:

- **President-Elect:** The President-Elect shall succeed to the Presidency following the President's second year in office. He or she shall have those duties as assigned by the President and the By-Laws and shall serve in this office for a term of one year. He or she shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees on which the President sits *ex officio*.
- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall act as secretary for all meetings of the members, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee and shall keep the minutes thereof. The Secretary shall notify all members of the Corporation of special and annual meetings and record the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall be responsible for the filing of all records of meetings. The Secretary shall be an *ex officio* member of the Committee on By-Laws.
- **Vice-President for International Activities:** The Vice-President for International Activities shall chair the



International Committee and shall have oversight for all international projects undertaken by the Institute, including but not limited to planning and execution of entries into the Prague Quadrennial, International Conference Programming, and other special international projects. The Vice-President for International Activities shall coordinate all OISTAT related projects with the Head of the U.S. Center for OISTAT.

- **Vice-President for Commissions:** The Vice-President for Commissions shall be the officer responsible for the Commissions which are devoted to investigation and research for the Corporation. This shall include the development, operation, and dissemination of information of the various commissions and research of the Corporation as herein designated under Article VII. This officer shall chair the selection committee for the YD&T awards. The Vice-President for Commissions shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the By-Laws, the Board of Directors and/or the President.
- **Vice-President for Conferences:** The Vice-President for Conferences shall be responsible for the planning and administration of the Annual Conference & Stage Expo for the Corporation. The Vice-President for Conferences shall chair the Annual Conference & Stage Expo Committee and shall supervise all USITT employees, volunteers, and contractors engaged in the operation of the Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Conference Coordinator Chairs shall be appointed by the Vice-President for Conferences, with the advice and consent of the Annual Conference & Stage Expo Committee, and ratified by the Board of Directors.

The Secretary and all Vice Presidents shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the Bylaws, the Board of Directors and/or the President.

- **Directors at Large:** Directors at Large are responsible for representing the Membership in all decisions made by the Board of Directors. They shall be members in good standing of the Institute and a Regional Section for all the time they serve. They are expected to attend all Board meetings. Each member of the Board of Directors shall serve as a member of an Institute committee, or be a Commissioner or Vice-Commissioner. There are 18 Directors at Large, and six are elected each year.

Please complete the 2011 Election Nomination Form, which can be found by [clicking here](#). Once all names and information have been collected, the committee will work to develop a slate of one or two individuals for each office and up to 12 potential Directors at Large. This slate will then be presented and voted on by the membership.

To allow a full review by the Nominations Committee, forms are due by March 1, 2010.

Because USITT is a membership organization, it is up to members to help encourage future leaders to become part of the board. Members are strongly encouraged to consider self-nomination if they are interested in serving the Institute in any of these capacities. Think about fellow members who are known to be talented, qualified leaders capable of fulfilling the positions open for election and together with your nominee prepare and submit a nomination form on their behalf.

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

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Savings on Search for Employment or Employees

Michelle L. Smith*Membership & Ad Sales Manager***ArtSEARCH - The National Employment Bulletin for the Arts**

Members receive a 10% discount on subscriptions and 15% 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 Customer Service 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.

JobsUSITT

USITT organizational members receive discounts and free listings. Supporting members receive a 10% discount on each listing, Sustaining members receive one free listing (30 day insertion) annually, and Contributing members receive unlimited free listings. For more information on JobsUSITT, [click 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.

Send questions or suggestions for new benefits to Membership & Ad Sales Manager Michelle L. Smith at 800-938-7488 or michelle@office.usitt.org.

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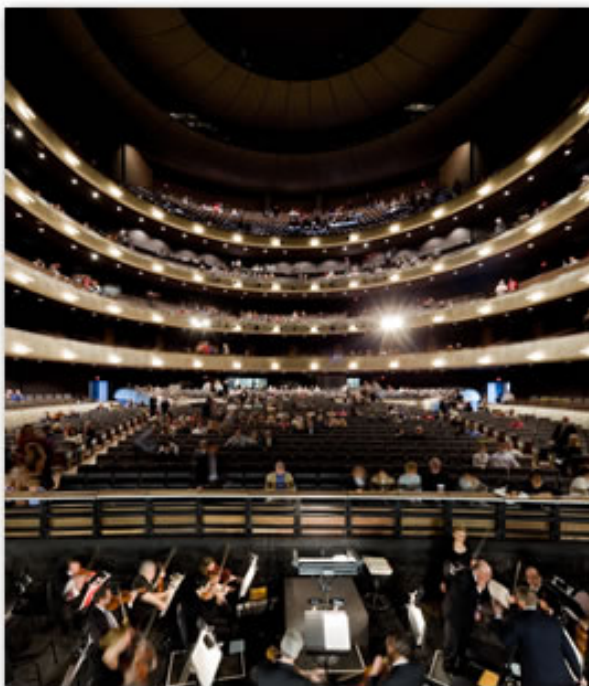
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2010 Architecture Award Merit Award Winners



Vukovich Center for Communication Arts
Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania;



Winspear Opera House
Dallas, Texas



Henry Miller's Theatre
New York, New York



Theatre De Quat'sous
Montreal, Canada



**Renée and Henry
Segerstrom Concert Hall
and Sameuli Theater**
Orange County, California



Iwaki Performing Arts Center
Fukushima, Japan

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Voting Closes February 10 in USITT Elections

Time is running out to vote in the 2010 Special Referendum - Name Change Correction and USITT Board of Directors elections. Voting will close at midnight on Wednesday, February 10. Members can [vote here](#) using their member number as the username and last name as the password. Anyone with questions should contact Shannan Hoerger at the USITT office, 800-938-7488, ext 101.

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Follow USITT on Twitter

Want updates quickly about USITT's 50th Anniversary Conference? Get connected and follow the Conference at <http://twitter.com/USITT2010>. Conference event updates, special offers, and reminders are being posted regularly on the site.

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Visiting Finance Committee

Former USITT Secretary Jean Montgomery spent time in Syracuse in early January working in the organization's archives. Ms. Montgomery completed her research in time to participate in the Finance Committee's discussions, including Treasurer Travis DeCastro, Bill Byrnes, Lea Asbell-Swanger, President Carl Lefko, President-Elect Joe Aldridge, Dan Culhane, and Sherry Wagner-Henry when they were in town.

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Planning for Kansas City

Also on the move in January were members of the Conference Planning Committee who spent a few days in Kansas City, Missouri performing the vital work needed to corral all the details of the 2010 event. Also vitally important was the further exploration of food and beverage options which will be available when USITT visits KC March 31 to April 3.

Early deadline for Conference registration is February 18, so anyone planning to attend is urged to visit www.usitt.org/2010, look at all the blockbuster events, and make the decision to register before prices go up.

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Voting Continues

USITT on Twitter

Office Visitors

Kansas City Planning

Henry Tharp

Long Reach Long Riders



Henry Tharp in KC

Long-time USITT member and Fellow Henry Tharp provided his vast local knowledge to assist the Conference planning process. Mr. Tharp, whose license plates have advertised USITT for more than three decades, is a former Vice-President for



Conferences and was a chief organizer of the 1980 Annual Conference which was held in Overland Park. That's in Kansas, not Missouri, as Mr. Tharp makes clear.

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Long Reach Long Riders At it Again

The Long Reach Long Riders, whose seventh annual charity motorcycle ride will benefit the ESTA Foundation's Behind The Scenes program and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, will begin in San Francisco on July 24, 2010.

The ride, which began as a one time event in 2004, has raised more than \$200,000.00 in the past six years. "We were just a bunch of technicians looking for a fun way to attend a conference", commented Bill Sapsis, one of the original ride organizers. "Who knew it would turn out like this?" Greg Williams, another founding member added, "The group was so much fun to ride with (to the USITT Conference in Long Beach) we just had to do it again."

The riders will assemble at the Presidio in San Francisco on the morning of July 24 and head north into the Napa Valley.

As in previous years, anyone who wants to ride with us is more than welcome, either as a 'day tripper' or for the entire ride. For more information on the route, joining the ride or making a donation, please visit www.lrlr.org.

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To Distribute New Product

Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc., JB-lighting's distributor in the United States and Mexico, announced the distribution of JBLED A4, a compact LED moving head fixture designed for use on small stages, clubs, and other smaller venues. The A4 contains 60 Luxeon high-power LEDs and features the same optical zoom system found in the PLASA award-winning JBLED A7.



The JBLED A7 recently was granted ETL safety certification, meeting high safety and quality assurance standards.

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This month:
Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies
Electronic Theatre Controls
Production Resource Group

Fabric Wins Award at LDI

Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications & Supplies' Precision Cut Fabric received the LDI award for best debuting product at the LDI Entertainment Technology Show in Orlando, Florida November 20 to 22. Precision cut silver crushed Voile was displayed in Rose Brand's booth as part of the exterior décor of the booth.

This computer-controlled cutting service opens the door to new design possibilities. CAD or vector drawing files are used to produce finished cut pieces within tight tolerances, and with very high repeatability, to achieve extraordinary patterns.



Rose Brand's Precision Cut Poly Silk was used by designer James Youman to create the dramatic Ribbon Drop for Broadway's West Side Story and Tony Awards broadcast.

The company's new Eco-Liner fabric is made from Repreve, a yarn born of 100% recycled content and processed responsibly. To make Repreve yarn, pre-consumer polyester fiber waste and post-consumer plastics are collected, then put through a unique material conversion process. Repreve is initially produced as a

100% recycled chip and then melted into a polymer, enabling it to be extruded into a yarn. Additional processes enhance the properties of the yarn to give it stretch, comfort, and softness. Eco-Liner fabric has been topically treated to provide fire resistance, yet the treatment doesn't diminish the recyclable properties of the fabric.

For more information, visit www.rosebrand.com.

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ETC Controllers Greet Texas Opera Lovers

The 50-foot chandelier in the new Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House greets visitors with a constellation of color -- a spectacle of sparkles and hues directed by a pair of **Electronic Theatre**



Conrols (ETC) Mosaic show controllers. Since the Winspear opened in October as part of the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas, Texas, the chandelier has been lauded as “a mass of golden starlight” (KERA-TV) and “downright magical” (*Dallas News*).

When the house lights dim prior to a show, the chandelier retracts into the ceiling so that just the ends of the rods are visible in a twinkling starfield effect before darkening. The Mosaic controllers are part of an overall ETC lighting package that also includes a Unison Paradigm house-lighting control system, an Eos lighting console, Sensor+ dimmers, and Source Four fixtures, all mastered by an ETC Net3 networking backbone.

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PRG Acquires Procon, Aid Green Holidays

Production Resource Group, L.L.C. (PRG), a leading supplier of entertainment technology solutions headquartered in New York, has acquired Procon MultiMedia Aktiengesellschaft AG (Procon), a major Europe-based entertainment technology company.

PRG and Procon continue to serve their current clients from their existing locations without interruptions. As of January 1, Procon began operating under the name PRG. Cinegate, Procon's film lighting and camera company, continues to operate under its existing brand.

PRG's worldwide presence will extend into significant territories now served by Procon, including Germany, France, Belgium, Switzerland, China, and South Africa. These will join PRG's existing facilities in key cities in the US and abroad including New York City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Orlando, Chicago, London, and Tokyo.

During the holidays, New York City has some of the world's most beautiful outdoor displays. This year, the iconic display of large vintage C7 Christmas light bulbs in front of the McGraw-Hill building at 1221 6th Avenue went green. The



traditional display was replaced with a giant string of 31 LED holiday lights. PRG Scenic Technologies partnered with the designers from American Christmas, a leader in holiday décor and installations, to build and install the massive display.

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

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New System Helps Ring in New Year

It's a festive tradition: December 31. New York City. 11:59 p.m. All eyes turn upward toward the sparkling, brilliantly lit New Year's ball as it begins its 60-second descent from high atop a flagpole located on the roof of One Times Square. Emitting a vast array of shining colors, it steadily lowers toward the base while crowds below chant the count: five... four... three... two... one happy New Year!

Last year, the hefty ball dropped without a hitch with the help of a **Thern Stage Equipment** winch. This year, a Thern winch lowered a new ball that's six times the size of the 2008 ball.

New Year's Eve crowds have enjoyed many different decorated balls as part of the annual festivities since 1907. 2009's celebration included a ball measuring 12 feet in diameter, covered entirely by Waterford crystals, and lit from the inside by over 32,000 LEDs. It weighed in at just under six tons. A new support structure and 139-foot shaft were constructed. The ball was raised and lowered using a closed-loop cable system to meet the challenge of dropping the ball 75 feet in 60 seconds.

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Announce Scene Painting Training

Cobalt Studios announces upcoming training sessions. Class space is limited, so register early. For detailed information, call 845-583-7025 or visit the [website](#).

Painting for Film and Television will be held February 22 through 26 and will be taught by Donna Wymore. Anti-Freakout Job Market Roundtable will be held February 26 and 27. Guns and Sprayers in the Scenic Arts will be held February 8 to 12 and is taught by Kamilla Nilsson. The Art of Scene Painting - the Historical Method will be held March 15 to 17 and will be taught by Lance Brockman.

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Powerhouse Faculty to Teach Lighting

This month:
Thern Stage Equipment
Cobalt Studios
Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
Theatre Projects Consultants

Lighting is always one of the most popular topics at the **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV)** summer program, covering everything from pre-visualization and WYSIWYG to technology and design. The summer 2010 lighting classes features a powerhouse faculty to teach the hands-on sessions. Among the superstar teachers are Valy Trembley of Proluxon and freelance lighting designers Yves Aucion (Celine Dion), Luc Lafortune (*O, Ka, Mystere*), and Nol van Genuchten (*Varekai*).

Immediately following the Lighting Tech and WYSIWYG classes, SILV will dive into Moving Lights, a session led by Leonard Miller of Philips/Vari-Lite and Brian Gale of NYX Design and his top notch team of programmers.

Find out more about learning lighting with SILV at stagecraftinstitute.com.

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Rust Joins Theatre Projects

Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc. welcomed Steve Rust to its team as the senior lighting designer in its United States office. With over 10 years' experience as a theatre consultant, he joins the firm from Sachs Morgan Studios in New York where his projects included the Nederlander Theatre in New York, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and the Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theatre in Washington, D.C. Before becoming a consultant, he was a production stage manager with Columbia Artists Management, and touring dance companies including the Bolshoi Ballet, National Ballet of China, and Paris Opera Ballet Ensemble.

For more information, visit theatreprojects.com.

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Where Were You in 1960?

Carl Lefko*USITT President*

There were eight forward-thinking visionaries in 1960 who together signed the certificate of incorporation for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology on September 21, 1960. This was the culmination of a process to create such an organization and began a long and storied history for the Institute.

During our celebration you will hear numerous stories about our first 50 years, and our archivist, Richard Stephens, is hard at work collecting and writing about those years. When you hear or read about our history, it is important to remember that few of these founding fathers are with us today.

We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Joel E. Ruben, Past President, Fellow, recipient of Lifetime membership in USITT, and still an active member of the Institute who will deliver the Fellows address in 2010. This blockbuster event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, March 31. Following the address, those attending will watch the passing of the gavel of office from some of our earliest presidents, to those who served in our middle and later years, and ending with the passing of the gavel to President Elect Joe Aldridge.

I invite you to ask yourself "Where were you during that memorable year of 1960?"

I am sure that few of us knew that we would follow a career in theatre or be connected to the entertainment industry. I was not even old enough to know that I needed a career.

Doing the math shows that there were very few of us, in 1960, who were in a position to join our founders in their quest to create an organization:

- to conduct research and investigation in the field of theatre planning and design, construction, equipment, presentation, and operation
- to publish, when possible, and disseminate the results of studies
- to assist in the establishment of contact between members of the Corporate, and the personnel of such members for the better interchange of knowledge in the field of theatre



technology

- to recommend practices in the field of theater planning and design, construction, equipment, presentation, and operation, based on the experience of those engaged in living theatre, both dramatic and musical, on all levels as developed by research and investigation in those fields
- to provide representation and participation in Conferences, assemblies, and other gatherings where matters of theatre planning and design, construction, equipment, presentation and operation are discussed.

This vision has driven us for 50 years, and we now have over 3,800 members who have joined the institute and are nurturing the dreams of these forward-thinking visionaries. Many of our current members were not even born when these seeds were planted, yet they can benefit from the magic of these dreams, and their numbers speak to the significance and impact USITT has on our industry.

As we celebrate our first 50 years in Kansas City, we need to celebrate our past accomplishments. That's the easy part. We also must continue building on the dreams that began in 1960, as the organization and its guiding spirits work diligently to secure our future.

Bold ideas have been and continue to be the cornerstone for success.

I look forward to joining you in Kansas City to celebrate our past and dream for our future.

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Seek Nominations, Slate Job Fair in Boston

Nominations are needed for Chair and Vice-Chair of the New England Regional Section.

Nominations and short biographies should be e-mailed, by March 1, to tiala@bc.edu. The nominations will be distributed to the membership and the positions voted on at the 2010 Conference & Stage Expo in Kansas City, Missouri. (Those not attending the conference will have the opportunity to vote beforehand.) Officers must be members of USITT (national) to be eligible.

Crystal Tiala, who has been Chair since 1997, is stepping down and new leadership is being sought. Some of the Section's accomplishments include:

- first website at www.usittne.org
- listserv
- Posting and advertising members' portfolios on the website
- Establishing programming with the New England Theater Conference - 2000 to 2003
- Established a Greater Boston Student Chapter for one year
- Established two awards and other events at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region I that continue to be awarded
- Promoted and developed the REPA Job Expo with StageSource and other transient partners, which continues to be successful
- Created workshops and theatre tours
- Established the annual BBQ

The REPA (Regional Entertainment Production and Administration) Job Fair will be held 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, February 27 at 88 Tremont St., Boston, Massachusetts.

Job seekers (designers, technicians, artisans and administrators in the entertainment industry) update resumes, portfolios, or websites and come on down. Admission is free. For more information [click here](#).

Parking is available in the Boston Common Garage and One Beacon Street Garage (approximately \$11 for Saturday parking). For directions, visit Mapquest, Yahoo, Expedia, or other search engines for maps, or see www.stagesource.org.

Sponsored by StageSource, USITT NE, and the Boston Dance Alliance.

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New England



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Rafael Jaen, who will lead the Costume Design & Technology Portfolio reviews at the 2010 Annual Conference & Stage Expo, gives his tips for portfolio presentations at right.

Illustration/Rafael Jaen

Plan Costume Portfolio Review

Rafael Jaen

Costume Design & Technology Commission

Part of the excitement in putting a portfolio together is the ability to plan details such as page layout, content variety, and aesthetic sequences. The portfolio then becomes a showcase of the designer or technician's process, resourcefulness, and artistry. Putting a portfolio together can seem like an impossible undertaking, so it is helpful to get feedback from other artists, teachers, and colleagues.

Here are five key aspects to consider when planning the presentation of a portfolio:

1. Pay attention to grooming and use professional manners.
2. Have a plan, use clear voice articulation, and listen carefully to feedback. Clear labeling, captions, and keys will help guide the viewer.
3. Have a beginning, middle, and end. Plan transitions between projects. Include visuals that explain the scope of the project.
4. Have brief concept statements, and use proper garment names and period references. Include important research materials. Be current with the show information and dramaturgy.
5. Feature different theatrical styles and historical periods. Include different sketching styles. Make sure the page

layout and use of captions are impeccably designed.

The Portfolio Reviews at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo are valuable sessions that can assist designers and technicians. This year, Rafael Jaen will head the Costume Design & Technology Commission's Portfolio Reviews. The Commission highly encourages all participants to share in the excitement of these sessions. Volunteering as a reviewer can be quite inspiring and helpful to both the interviewee and the mentor. Having the courage to get a critique from professionals in the field can be of great value for the young designer or technician in building self-confidence and setting next steps.

For more information and to sign up, contact Mr. Jaen at Rafael_jaen@emerson.edu . Provide area of concentration, school affiliation, and level of study or experience.

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Seek Lighting Portfolio Reviewers, Presenters

As members prepare for USITT's 2010 Conference & Stage Expo -- registering for the conference, booking the hotel room and flight, planning what sessions to attend and what booth to go to first -- consider joining the Lighting Commission's Portfolio Review as either a presenter or reviewer.

One goal of the Lighting Commission's mission is to promote excellence in lighting design and lighting design education. Portfolio reviews provide presenters a wider audience in relation to individual progress and work by soliciting opinions from someone other than their primary mentor. Reviewers have an opportunity to see upcoming talent happening across the country, along with sharing their own knowledge and skills. Reviewers provide helpful, non-threatening, and incisive comments and suggestions.

The overall review process takes approximately 30 minutes for each review and is a wonderful way to participate in Commission sponsored activities. Anyone with a degree in lighting or working in the professional field and interested in having a hand developing upcoming lighting designers should consider becoming a reviewer. Beginning reviewers will be teamed with those who have reviewed during prior USITT Conferences.

Presenters are made up of students of all levels, professionals just starting out or looking for the next step up, and educators needing a peer review for the promotion and tenure process.

To volunteer as a reviewer or have any questions, e-mail Jennifer Read at jread@whitworth.edu. To be a presenter, find further information at the [Conference website](#) and then e-mail Ms. Read.

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Visit New Exhibitors at Stage Expo 2010

Helen Willard*Stage Expo Sales Manager*

Bring your favorite walking shoes to the 2010 conference to comfortably explore all that Stage Expo has to offer. Over 100 commercial booths and tables, plus dozens of non-commercial tables and a plethora of special exhibits, will fill exhibit halls A, B, and C of the Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities.

More than 150 exhibitors have already reserved space for the 50th anniversary show, with just a few booths remaining to be sold. A limited number of Commercial tables for small companies meeting criteria, and Non-Commercial tables for colleges, universities and other non-profit organizations are available. Anyone who would like to exhibit but has not reserved a space should contact Helen Willard immediately at hpwillard@aol.com.

Recent additions to the preliminary exhibitor list include Bad Dog Tools, Conductix-Wampfler, The Costume Bible, George Washington University, Green Room Staffing, Illinois State University, Ohio State University, Omaha Playhouse, San Diego State University, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Society of Prop Artisan Managers, Staging Concepts, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Tulane University, and Western Illinois University.

For more information about Stage Expo 2010 exhibitors, visit the Stage Expo Web Page to see the layout and a current list of exhibitors. Click on a highlighted booth to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' websites to provide information on products and services prior to the show.

Stage Expo 2010 will be open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday of the conference week. Expanded times where there are no sessions, noted as "Stage Expo only hours" will give plenty of time to visit all the booths and enjoy the wide variety of special exhibits at USITT's 50th anniversary show.



Stage Expo 2010 will have an unusual configuration in Kansas City, Missouri. The exhibition halls A, B, and C are on the second floor and span the street which runs beneath them.

Photo/Mark Putman

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To Hold Electrical Workshop

Jerry Gorrell

Electrical Workshop Instructor

Snap, crackle, and pop. If this sounds like electrical wiring and not breakfast cereal, USITT is here to help.

The one and a half day Electrical Workshop being offered on March 29 and 30, before the official opening of the 2010 Conference, will help keep unintended sounds and pyrotechnics out of theatrical electrical systems and facilities.

Workshop material targets basic and intermediate level electricians. The workshop, conducted by ETCP recognized trainers, covers many items in the *ETCP Electrician Candidate Handbook* outline. It includes the basics of entertainment electrical systems as well as an overview of *National Electrical Code* and *NFPA 70E: Standard for Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces*.

What you don't know can hurt you. Additionally, who wants the electrical inspector shutting down a show.

The Electrical Workshop starts on Monday evening so participants can arrive on Monday, saving a night of hotel costs. A lot of misinformation about electrical systems and wiring permeates the ether. Now is the time to get the straight scoop from people with over 100 years of experience in and a multitude of perspectives on the entertainment electrical business.

Now is the chance to get questions answered by ETCP recognized trainers Mitch Hefter, Ken Vannice, Jerry Gorrell, Jared Saltzman, and supporting cast of "hundreds." [Register now](#) for the Annual Conference & Stage Expo and the USITT Electrical Workshop.

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Session to Focus on 'MUNY Magic'

Michael J. Riha

Scene Design Commission

Fifty years ago, the theatre industry looked quite different than it does today. If anyone would have suggested that lighting fixtures could move, change color, pattern, and shape all with a blink of an eye and not require the assistance of two or three stage hands, no one would have believed them. Today people have become accustomed to technological advances that make the lives of designers easier, while making technical rehearsals much longer and more painful!

There is one place that still embraces many of the "old school" traditions of the theatre – the St. Louis MUNY Theatre. This American, iconic, outdoor theatre, incorporated in 1919, opened its first season with *Robin Hood* and has since gone on to present America's most beloved musicals to literally millions of patrons.

Heading into its 92nd season, the 2010 summer will feature the musical *Beauty and the Beast* along with six additional productions between mid June and the first week of August. Admiring audiences will come out to see their favorite St. Louis and New York performers as well as designs that feature works by Tony Award-nominated lighting designers and prolific regional theatre and Broadway set designers.

But what truly sets this theatre apart from all others is the paint staff. The scenics at the MUNY have the incredibly challenging task of taking traditional Broadway style muslin covered flats and turn them into works of art that resonate with patrons in the box

See how the St. Louis MUNY Theatre creates stunning stage presentations for outdoor dramas during a special session at USITT's 50th Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Photos/ Michael J. Riha

seats 25 feet away, to the 2,000 free seat section 350 feet from the stage. In an era of “digital” scenery, this staff works in the traditional methods of scenic art that have been taught since the turn of the 20th century. The only advancements that have been made in the areas of premixed paints as opposed to dry pigment and hide glue, but the techniques remain the same.

The MUNY painters have the formidable task of turning highly detailed painter’s elevations into gigantic scenic units in just under 11 days. In addition to the short time frame, the painters have only one night of technical rehearsal where most, not all, of the scenery is on stage. During this midnight to 6 a.m. technical rehearsal, all paint notes are taken by the design staff and presented to the painters the following morning where they will have just under five hours to complete pages and pages of notes – which they usually do.

One of the most incredible scenic units at the MUNY is the boom. The boom is a 23-by-84-foot show “curtain” that is used to close off the back stage from the audience in order to make scene changes. This unique piece of scenery is truly a work of art as it is painted by three Union scenic artists in just over three days and is never seen under stage light until opening night.



In order to pay tribute to this wonderfully iconic “factory” of a theatre, a session will be presented at the Kansas City 2010 Conference & Stage Expo to explore how the scenery is constructed, painted, and mounted in just under 11 days.

The session, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, will feature a short documentary film that will include interviews with the scenic artists who are responsible for making the “MUNY Magic” happen along with video clips of the paint process. A look at the unique tools that have been developed over the years to accommodate the “MUNY scale” will be featured in this film as well as the myriad of other factors that go into creating theatre of this scale.

At the conclusion of the film, designers Steve Gilliam and Michael Riha will take questions and lead a discussion of the art and challenges of painting for large outdoor theatres.

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Sponsor Support Makes Event Special

Anticipation is building for the 50th Annual Conference & Stage Expo, and so is sponsorship support.

Sally Struthers, Margaret Mitchell, Jennifer Tipton, and Francois Leroux are all “goin’ to Kansas City” to deliver blockbuster presentations that will delight and inspire everyone present for USITT’s 50th anniversary celebration. Thanks to technology, members who can’t be in Kansas City don’t have to miss out. USITT will post live streaming video on the website for viewing from a computer with internet access. Sponsors are still needed for streaming video.

Thanks to sponsor support, there will be at least five Cyber Cafés located throughout Stage Expo ([click here](#) to view a map).

Attendees can use the kiosks, outfitted with computers and internet connections, to stay connected to the office or home without missing out on conference activities. USITT would like to provide one more café and is looking for a company or school as sponsor.

Attendees looking for even more star power should check out the Broadway Seminars. (Separate registration and fee are required. [Click here](#) for more details.) World-renown designers like William Ivey Long and Natasha Katz will discuss their evolution as designers and their work processes in day-long sessions that provide time for questions. PRG has generously agreed to support breaks and a cocktail reception for all the designers and participants.

The Imperial Ballroom in the Kansas City Marriott Downtown is the place to be for “Fifty & Nifty.” The fun starts at 8 p.m. on Wednesday of Conference week. Cash bars and complimentary hors d’oeuvres will provide the fuel attendees need to socialize and let their hair down. This event is fully supported thanks to our sponsors.

All sponsorships include a generous recognition package and will place sponsors’ names front and center for the industry professionals who attend the Conference every year. To learn more, [click here](#) to download an informational flier or contact Michelle L. Smith in the USITT office at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or michelle@office.usitt.org. Contact her quickly to reserve first choice

Sponsors

Fifty & Nifty

- A V Pro, Inc.
- ETC
- SECOA
- Texas Scenic Company

Cyber Cafés

- City Theatrical, Inc.
- IATSE Local 1
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- *Live Design Magazine*
- RC4 Wireless

Broadway Seminars Breaks & Reception

- PRG

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UMKC Mission: To Lead in the Performing Arts

Tom Mardikes

Kansas City Promotions Coordinator

Kansas City is *big* on the arts. It's downright bizarre that a metropolitan area of nearly two million people would see nearly \$1 billion dollars spent in the first decade of the 21st Century in support of the arts. A number of new theatres have been built. Several of the major performing arts companies have built new administrative and production complexes. New galleries have opened. The Nelson-Atkins completed a \$200+ million expansion and renovation. A designated arts district was even created, known as the Crossroads, centered a few blocks south of the downtown loop.

When the Kauffman Center for the Performing Art opens in 2011, this new \$400+ million home for three of Kansas City's major performing arts groups becomes the capstone project of this developmental drive, with heightened hopes for the ballet, symphony, and opera, as well as civic impact upon the community. Created by the world's leading designers in architecture, acoustics, and theatre engineering, the Kauffman Center will begin a new era of expectation as the crown jewel for the performing arts in Kansas City.

How did Kansas City come to deserve such a fine facility? How did Kansas City, as reported by the Metropolitan Arts Council in 2007, actually sell more tickets to performing arts than professional sports? How do Kansas City's performing arts groups

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, scheduled to open in 2011, will be the subject of a special session and tours when USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo visits Kansas City. The building is only part of recent investments in the arts.

Photo/KCCVA

collectively have a greater economic impact than professional sports?

This arc of performing arts development and growth started 50 years ago, on what is now the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). At that time this site was the home of the University of Kansas City (UKC). In 1959 this private university, UKC, added the Kansas City Conservatory of Music as a new college. In 1963, UKC was absorbed by the University of Missouri System (UM) and became UMKC.

In 1964, the Department of Theatre and Speech, under the chairmanship of Dr. Patricia McIlrath, launched the UMKC Summer Repertory Theatre, inaugurating the concept of a "Teaching Hospital for Theatre" in which theatre students could work side-by-side with theatre professionals. In 1971 the UM System launched its Role & Scope plan, designating certain campuses for the pursuit of excellence in specific disciplines. UMKC was designated as Missouri's Campus for the Performing Arts, and until the early 2000's, the primary mission of UMKC was to "lead in the performing arts."

Over these 50 years UMKC has focused on the performing arts and funded these programs accordingly. Exceptional faculties have been formed in the Conservatory of Music and Dance and within UMKC Theatre. While most UMKC students come from the greater KC area, the performing arts programs recruit talented students on a national basis and have attracted a consistent international pool. The university has supported the growth of the Summer Repertory Theatre as well, which has grown over the last 45 years into the LORT theatre known today as Kansas City Repertory Theatre, with a \$7 million annual budget.

As with any university, its greatest asset are its faculty and students. And the byproduct of UMKC's commitment to the performing arts has been its greatest gift to this city: *faculty and alumni are responsible for founding most of its major performing arts organizations.*

Conservatory faculty or alumni are directly responsible for the creation of the Kansas City Chorale, the Kansas City Ballet, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, Quality Hill Playhouse, the KC Chamber Orchestra, Bach Aria Soloists, Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company, and many more.

Faculty and alumni of UMKC Theatre have founded KC Repertory Theatre, the Coterie Theatre, the Unicorn Theatre, the New Theatre Restaurant, the American Heartland Theatre, Kansas City Actors Theatre, Martin City Melodrama, Gorilla Theatre, and many more.

So the future of the performing arts looks bright for Kansas City, and it's exciting to consider this wonderful synchronicity between 50 years of growth toward the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and 50 years of celebrating the wonder that is

USITT, all coming together in a renovated downtown Kansas City looking forward to a wonderful new era.

While visiting KC for USITT's 50th Annual Conference, consider taking advantage of the following performing arts opportunities:

- *Bus Stop* at KC Repertory Theatre: the William Inge classic performed at the Rep's mainstage theatre on the UMKC campus: <http://www.kcrep.org/>
- *Broadway's Best* at the Quality Hill Playhouse: a revue of songs from the best Broadway musicals in an intimate theatre located downtown: <http://www.qualityhillplayhouse.com>
- *Cactus Flower* with Loretta Swit at the New Theatre: the M*A*S*H series star following a fine dining experience: <http://www.newtheatre.com>
- *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at the American Heartland Theatre: musical comedy located in Crown Center, a few blocks south of downtown: <http://www.ahtkc.com/>
- *Rigolletto* at the Lyric Opera Kansas City (closes March 28): Verdi's hunchback jester, in Italian: <http://www.kcrep.org/>
- *Green Whales* at the Unicorn Theatre (Closes March 28): new play by Lia Romeo featuring hookups, pickups and lineups: <http://www.unicorntheatre.org/>
- *First Friday* at the Crossroads Arts District, April 2 from 6pm-9pm. Over 60 art galleries and restaurants have an Open House for nearly 5000 people over a 10-block district centered around 19th Street & Baltimore Street: <http://www.crossroadscommunityassociation.org/>

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Conference & Stage Expo

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Employment Service Returns to Conference

USITT again offer its Conference Employment Service as part of the 2010 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Kansas City, Missouri.

Forms are available [here](#) and under Conference Opportunities at the USITT Conference website.

Those seeking employment and those with positions to be filled can participate in this matching service, which offers the opportunity to hold face-to-face interviews during the Conference. All applicants and employers must be current USITT members to participate.

Positions are available across a broad range of skill categories and types of employment, including full time workers, interns, graduate assistants, and summer positions. Interviews will be arranged during specific times on the third floor of the Marriott Kansas City Downtown's Marriott Towers. Times can be arranged April 1 to 3.

Carolyn Satter, Management Commissioner and member of the Board of Directors, will coordinate the program. Those with specific questions may contact Ms. Satter at satter@sandiegotheatre.org.

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- Patricia Dennis, *Secretary*
- Travis DeCastro, *Treasurer*
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- Nadine Charlson
- Michael Monsos
- Mark Shanda
- Sherry Wagner-Henry
- Craig Wolf

2008-2011

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

2009-2012

- William Browning
- Jonathan Darling
- Linda Essig
- Mitch Hefter

- Martha Marking
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- SECOA
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- Texas Scenic Company
- Vincent Lighting Systems
- Vortek, a division of Daktronics

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- Johnson Systems Inc.
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- Kirkegaard Associates
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