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Curtain Opens on 2010 Celebration

Sally Struthers, left, kicked off the 2010 Annual Conference & Stage Expo with tremendous excitement. Ms. Struthers had her audience roaring with her presentation. Ms. Struthers received a special 50th Anniversary Award from USITT President Carl Lefko, right.

Several photos of the 2010 Annual Conference are included in this issue. Watch for more information and images in the May issue of *Sightlines*. [View Ms. Struthers' presentation here.](#)

Photo/Casey Kearns

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USITT's 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo will be centered at the Charlotte Convention Center, close to hotels and the rejuvenated City Center.

Photo/Courtesy Visit Charlotte

Charlotte's Got USITT in 2011

Barbara E.R. Lucas

Sightlines Editor

Charlotte, North Carolina has been chosen as the site for USITT's 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. The site was announced by VP for Conferences David W. Will.

"Charlotte is a great location with great access for a large number of our members," Mr. Will said. "We've been talking about North Carolina as a Conference location for the past 10 years, and we are pleased to be able to make this happen in 2011."

Dates for the Annual Conference will be Wednesday, March 9 to Saturday, March 12. Stage Expo will return to its traditional Thursday through Saturday run.

The city uses the theme "Charlotte's Got a Lot" and that applies to performing arts, entertainment, and attractions. A broad range of performance opportunities are available -- from Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, North Carolina Dance Theatre, and Opera Carolina, to the Sprint Square Center for the Arts & Education and the NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

Those attending the Conference will be able to visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame, scheduled to open in May 2010, the newly opened Harvey B. Gantt African-American Center for Arts + Culture, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, and many galleries, museums, and historic

sites.

Just steps from the Charlotte Convention Center, where most Conference events will be held, is a huge assortment of food and activities which are part of Center City – from chains like Dave & Busters to the homegrown Something Classic Café and The EpiCentre.

USITT had been considering Fort Lauderdale in 2011 but “we were unable to finalize details which would make it work for us and our guests,” Mr. Will said. “The shift to Charlotte is a wonderful opportunity for us to kick off our second half century.”

For 2011, USITT is exploring themed programming to highlight a specific segment of sessions tied to a central idea. Commission leadership is currently exploring options for those types of programs in Charlotte.

Mr. Will said he has heard from a large contingent of USITT members who are eager to have a Conference on the west coast, and the organization has been listening. “We’re very pleased to be heading back to Long Beach,” Mr. Will said. Those familiar with the Long Beach Convention Center should be pleased that the 2012 Annual Conference has been scheduled for March 28 to 21, 2012 in that Southern California city.

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New Review Chain Hoist Standard

BSR E1.6-3--201x, Selection and Use of Chain Hoists in the Entertainment Industry, is available [here](#) for public review through May 3.

The draft standard is part of the BSR E1.6 powered theatrical rigging system project. This part, BSR E1.6-3, establishes minimum safety requirements for the selection and use of serially manufactured electric link chain hoists having capacity of two tons or less in the entertainment industry. This standard does not address the design or maintenance of these hoists.

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; or e-mail standards@esta.org.

[To Top](#) ↑**Exams Translated To French**

The Conseil québécois des ressources humaines en culture (CQRHC) and CITT announced that the ETCP exams for entertainment riggers will be available in French this spring.

After five months of work, CITT announced that the inaugural administration of the French paper and pencil ETCP Arena and Theatre Rigging exams will take place in Montréal on Tuesday April 27 on the eve of the opening of EN COULISSE at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. Another first: both French and English paper and pen exams will be administered simultaneously. In the meantime, interested French-speaking riggers can assess their skills prior to applying for the certification exam by taking the 50-question rigging practice exams, which were launched online on March 1.

The French certification exams will be available only in the paper and pencil format. CITT, through its regional sections will work towards ensuring Francophone riggers have regular access to the exams throughout the year.

[To Top](#) ↑**Free Seminars Offered**

Visitors to PLASA Focus: Leeds 2010, April 27 and 28 at the Royal Armouries, are invited to take part in a series of seminars presented by some of the industry's

This month:
Chain Hoist Standard
ETCP Exams
PLASA

leaders. The two-day Education & Learning Programme, which runs at the same time as the exhibition, proved a major success last year and this year will cover an equally diverse range of topics. Beginning with The Theatres Trust Annual Conference, this year's debate focuses on the principles of School Theatre Design. That's followed by the Production Managers Forum with the Stage Management Association (SMA) and a session entitled *Preparing for the Future* with the National Skills Academy (NSA).

On the second day, two regional case studies will be presented. David Stuttard, technical director of Wexford Opera House, will discuss rebuilding this landmark venue. The study examines the ground-breaking installation that's putting Manchester's iconic music scene back on the map. The importance of safety in rigging will be addressed by UK Rigging and Total Solutions Group in a workshop on the topic *What's the Damage?* and a seminar by InfoComm International, *Realising the Value of Project Management*, will explore how effective project management and efficient processes can help retain margin and add value. The seminar programme is now live at www.plasafocus.com/leeds.

Like the show, admission to all seminars is free; however visitors must register as space is limited.

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Midwest Tech Olympics Thrive

Steve Jacobs

Midwest Regional Section

The Midwest Regional Section continues to promote and sponsor Tech Olympics at the state theatre festivals in each state of the section. In addition to Section members who donate their time and energies to run the Olympics, the Section purchases t-shirts as swag for competitors.

Nearly 50 Wisconsin high school students converged on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the 2009 Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival Tech Olympics. Seven teams competed in six events throughout the day, culminating with an awards ceremony later that evening in the Young Auditorium.

Students vied in timed events such as annual favorites *Knot Tying* (sponsored by Mainstage Theatrical of Milwaukee, WI), *Wire a Connector* (sponsored by Designlab Chicago), and *Lighting a Fixture*, *Prop Shift*, and *Sewing a Button* (all sponsored by ETC). A new rigging competition, sponsored by Milwaukee-based Acme Corp., was especially well received.



“The students were very excited and enthusiastic about

the new rigging competition,” said Tech Olympics Coordinator and ETC Hospitality Coordinator Rick Wolff. “Setting up a truss and chain rigging played a significant role in the outcome of the final standings, making things that much more intriguing”.

ETC’s Kirk Starks (technical support specialist) judged the *Lighting a Fixture* competition and had similar sentiments. “It was great to see enthusiasm and competitive spirit in lighting. If only show focus could go that fast...”

Each event had individual first, second, and third-place winners who received gifts of tools, theatre gadgets, and swag, including the popular USITT Midwest Tech Olympics T-shirts.



The best times of each of the six events from every squad were recorded and tabulated for the Team Competition. The 2009 Champion was Neenah High School, which took the event by storm in its first appearance at the Tech Olympics, taking home the trophy and a brand new Source Four fixture. Kettle Moraine High School placed second also earning a shiny new Source Four Par, followed by the third place winner Dominican High School “Green Team” earning a trophy and Source Four 26 degree lens tube.

Despite a snowy, slippery drive for many to East Lansing and Michigan State University, the Michigan Educational Theatre Association (META) Festival was a great success. On December 4, two workshop sessions were dedicated to the Tech Olympics. This year’s events were: Hang and Focus a Light, Prop Shift, Costume Change, Sound Setup, and Knot Tying.

In only the second year of the event at META, 26 students from 12 different high schools participated. Primarily organized by Western Michigan University’s Patrick Niemi and Matt Knewtson, with the assistance of USITT Midwest and ETC, the students had fun, learned lots, and took away some swag and prizes.

Since all of the events are individual events, an Overall Master Technician Award is presented each year to the student who excels in all five events. Derek Arnold,



a student at Wylie E.

Groves High School from Beverly Hills, Michigan garnered the award this year. It just so happens that his school also won the First Place Team award.

Tech Olympics at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival included wiring a plug, Nicopress, light focus, prop change, costume quick change, knot tying, sound system set-up, and flat construction. Seventeen different schools were represented with a total of 79 students competing. For the second year in a row, the first and second place team prize of a Source Four, donated by ETC, went to Naperville Central and University High School, respectively. Many vendors supplied swag for the competition.

In Illinois, the winners must stop by the Midwest Regional Section table in the Exhibit Hall to learn about the Section, find out the results of the Tech Olympics, collect their swag, and in the case of the winning team, have their picture taken.



The new Section display was created by M.C. Friedrich of Michigan Technological University.

The 2010 Indiana State Thespian Conference was held the weekend of January 22 to 24 on the campus of Vincennes University in the brand new Red Skelton Theatre. This was the first time Vincennes had hosted the Conference and the Tech Olympics (called the Tech Challenge) at the campus.

This year there was a dramatic increase to 600 delegates. Tech Olympics had a similar increase. There were 44 competitors. This caused Indianapolis Stage Sales and Rental to scramble to create a lot more “swag bags” than in the past. Ellen White, with ETC, also contributed more items for those “goody bags” as well as generous donations of an ETC Source Four PAR and a Source Four ellipsoid for the top two teams!

Students competed in Lighting a Geometric Shape, Sound System Set-Up, Props Quick Change, Basic Knots Tying, and Folding a Backdrop as a team event. This year Richard Wood (the Red Skelton Theater’s technical director) and Michael Legate (the theatre



department's technical director) supplied undergraduate students as judges for most events. The lighting station was judged by David Del Coletti (recently retired from the Indiana State University Theater Department). Randy Riggs, the sales manager from Indianapolis Stage, developed an Excel spreadsheet for scoring.

The winners of the team awards this year were:

- **1st Place** – Warren Central High School (Indianapolis area) ETC Source Four ellipsoid
- **2nd Place** – Carmel High School (Carmel) – ETC Source Four PAR
- **3rd Place** – Reitz Memorial High School (Evansville)
- **4th Place** – Logansport High School (Logansport)



Anyone in the Section who is interested in helping with any of the Tech Olympics should contact Section members: Steve Jacobs sjacobs192@comcast.net; Ken Fraza: frazak@lsc.k12.in.us; or Ellen White: ellen.white@etcconnect.com.

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News from Behind the Scenes

Behind the Scenes recently announced three major fundraising events from Apollo Design Technology, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, and the Long Reach Long Riders.

Apollo Design Technology recently made the first donation to Behind the Scenes from first year sales of the winning templates in its annual Design-A-Pattern Contest. Each year, Apollo adds new gobo designs to its library of standard patterns but wanted to get the users more involved. In 2008, the company created the Design-A-Pattern Contest. Anyone can submit a design and those entries that meet Apollo's basic criteria for what makes a good standard pattern are posted on Apollo's website and the public votes for their favorite.

The first contest resulted in 30 entries and five winning patterns submitted by R. Christopher Stokes, Dwayne Thomas, Morgan Landrum, Todd Proffitt, and Gary McGarity. As recognition for being selected, the designer's name is included in the pattern name, the designs are added to Apollo's marketing materials, and Apollo makes a donation to Behind the Scenes based on a portion of first year sales.

Visit www.apollogdesign.net to view the 2009 contest winners and support Behind the Scenes or to submit a design for the 2010 contest, which is underway.

Behind the Scenes recently received a grant of \$50,000 from Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS. This \$50,000, the first in what will be an annual grant, was sent in appreciation of the long-time support those working in the technical theatre professions have given to BC/EFA.

The Long Reach Long Riders and The ESTA Foundation announced the annual raffle to benefit Behind the Scenes was held April 2 at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Kansas City, Missouri. The drawing was at the Behind the Scenes booth (322) on the trade show floor.

Among the prizes donated were: Altman Rentals



(ghostlight), Apollo Design Technology (Smart Move DMX Rotator), Barbizon (Stagehands Tool Kit), Field Template (SoftSymbols and Field Templates), Doug Fleenor Design (DMX/RDM Coffee Pot), Sapsis Rigging (\$250 gift certificate), SeaChanger (iPod Touch and colorBUG), USITT (2011 Conference registration), Utah Shakespearean Festival (three pairs of theatre tickets), Vectorworks (Spotlight with Renderworks), Vincent Lighting Systems (\$250 gift certificate), and Greg Williams (Photo Call and "Photography 101 for the Stage" Seminar).

For more information about Behind the Scenes, to donate, or to apply for a grant, visit:

www.estafoundation.org/bts.htm.

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Offer Training at Reduced Rates

Michelle L. Smith*Membership & Ad Sales Manager***Live Design Master Classes**

Gain insights into the artistic process of top lighting, sound, and projection designers by participating in the Live Design Master Classes.

Legendary designers like Jules Fisher, Peggy Eisenhauer, and Abe Jacob will be on hand to share their wisdom.

Also offered are tickets to shows and a technology showcase.



The [Broadway Sound Master Classes](#) lead things off on May 21 to 23, followed by the [Broadway Projection Master Class](#) on May 24. Both events will be held at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. The [Broadway Lighting Master Classes](#) will run May 25 to 27 at the NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts.

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

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

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

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2010 Annual Conference & Stage Expo

Photos/Richard Finklestein/Tom Thatcher

Information exchange and networking started even before the official opening of the 2010 Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Kansas City, Missouri. Professional Development Workshops, Broadway Master Classes, and setting up special exhibits kept people engaged and involved.

More information from the Conference will be available online and in the May issue of *Sightlines*.

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Kicking off 50th Celebration

This issue of *Sightlines* is being launched as USITT's 50th Annual Conference & Stage Expo gets underway in Kansas City, and that's the Missouri side of the city for those who might be fooled.

Stage Expo is humming, sessions are being held, and there is a huge sense of excitement about the entire event.

There will be much more news about the 50th celebration in the May issue of *Sightlines*, including announcements about new Fellows of the Institute, special awards, and information about webstreaming.

If you can't be with us in Kansas City, we invite you to share the excitement virtually. Check the front page of www.usitt.org for links.

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In the March issue of *Sightlines* we misstated the school which Beauty Thibodeau, winner of the USITT Make-up Design Award sponsored by Kryolan Professional Makeup, attends. Ms. Thibodeau is scheduled to graduate in May from the University of Texas at Austin. We wish her warmest congratulations and apologize for the error.

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Celebrating Big at 50th Bash

For 50 years, the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo has been the trade show for students and educators in theatre technology. **ETC** is celebrating the historic event with new products, student-only perks, and an ongoing party.

Get to USITT early for the Fifty & Nifty kickoff. ETC is co-sponsoring the bash.

When the Expo show doors open, follow the blaze of color to ETC's booth (630) where Selador Series LED fixtures will be beaming bright -- including ETC's new Vivid -R and Vivid Fire and Ice. Demo the newest additions to ETC's dimming line. See how SmartBar 2 and SmartModule 2 save time, space, and budgets. Also making its big USITT debut is ETC Rigging, which includes ETC's innovative Prodigy motorized-hoist systems and QuickTouch controls.

Student visitors to ETC's booth will score exclusive ETC USITT swag. Line up at ETC's welcome desk, swipe your show badge, and get an iconic T-shirt. While there, pick up a VIP Student Pass for ETC's Student Session celebrating its 10th anniversary. (The pass is required to attend.) Meet ETC at this *student-only* forum, Q&A session, trivia game, and swag fest.

The ETC Connect Lounge will be open again this year to help students with last-minute portfolio needs.

Computers, scanners, and printers, plus ETC staff with one-on-one advice, will be at the ready.

USITT's Conference also kicks off ETC's LDI Student-Sponsorship application season. Hard-copy forms will be available at the ETC booth. Graduate students and senior undergrads studying lighting, theatre tech, or related fields are encouraged to apply for this all-expense-paid trip to the LDI tradeshow, October 22 to 24 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Applications are also available online at www.etconnect.com.

USITT's Old and New Product Showcase will be another chance to snag ETC swag and learn more about theatre-tech history. See ETC's latest and greatest products plus vintage blasts from the past.

This month:

ETC

Rose Brand

City Theatrical Inc.

Production Resource
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Blog Discusses Advantages of LED Lighting

The latest post on **Rose Brand**'s "Know How" blog at blog.RoseBrand.com describes Neoflex installation techniques and design options. Neoflex is a flexible strip of diffused LED



lighting that's available in colors. It is 70 percent more energy efficient than cold cathode Neon and maintains a consistent color throughout its 50,000 hour lifespan.

Rose Brand is the premier provider of FR fabrics, stage curtains, custom sewn creations and production supplies for live entertainment, film, TV, display, house of worship, schools and event organizations.

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Firms form New Partnership

Nemetschek North America announced a new partnership with **City Theatrical**. This partnership will allow both companies to cross sell and market their products to professionals and schools focused on the entertainment and lighting design industries.

Acting as a U.S. distributor partner, City Theatrical will sell Vectorworks Spotlight and Vectorworks Designer software through its distributor network of over 200 lighting dealers in all major cities. Nemetschek North America, in turn, will be able to offer its customers the product Lightwright 5, a quintessential tool for tracking all aspects of selecting and arranging, numbering and comparing, assigning, and footnoting lighting paperwork. For more information, visit www.citytheatrical.com.

Nemetschek North America is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nemetschek AG. A global leader in design technologies, Nemetschek North America has been developing CAD software for the AEC, entertainment, landscape design, and manufacturing fields since 1985. For more information, visit www.vectorworks.net.

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Takes Field at Superbowl, Acquires Company

When the legendary rock band The Who took the stage at the Sun Life Stadium in Miami, Florida for the *Bridgestone Super Bowl XLIV Halftime Show*, **Production Resource Group** (PRG) provided the lighting package and crew for the show, one of the most intense 12 minutes in live entertainment.

PRG recently acquired Davis Audio Visual (Davis), a Denver-based company. The



acquisition reinforces PRG's position as the foremost provider of client services, equipment and technology in the entertainment, meetings, and events industry. Davis, one of the oldest and most respected AV companies, provides all aspects of audiovisual and computer management services for associations and corporations throughout North America and Europe.

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

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Welcome Allied Theatre Crafts

Allied Theatre Crafts, Inc. recently joined USITT at the Sustaining level of membership. Founded April 1, 1969, Allied Theatre Crafts, Inc. manufactures and installs stage curtains, stage rigging, counterweight systems, theatrical lighting, and television studio curtains and track.

The company is based in Kansas City, and is exhibiting at Booth 1413 at Stage Expo.

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BMI Upgrades

We appreciate the additional support from **BMI Supply** which recently became a Sustaining member. BMI Supply, a USITT member since 1995, is a full line theatrical supply house and on-site stage contractor. It provides national and worldwide shipments of hardware, draperies, drops, lighting, dimming, paint, and more.

For those currently in Kansas City, the company is in Booth 400 at Stage Expo. They can be found on the web at www.bmisupply.com.

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Upgrade by ENTTEC

We also appreciate **ENTTEC**, which recently increased its support to that of a Sustaining member. ENTTEC manufactures interfaces and devices which form “connective tissue” in lighting systems. The 2010 ENTTEC booth, 1225, at Stage Expo features several guest software developers who support ENTTEC hardware, including a visualizer, a media server, and an iPhone based lighting controller.

Jeremy Kumin is US Sales and Marketing Manager for the company, and can be reached at jkumin@enttec.com

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Pink Glitters in Air at Grammys

The 52nd Grammy Awards were held January 31 at the Los Angeles Staples Center. The audience was the largest it's been in six years, with approximately 25.8 million

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Allied Theatre Crafts

BMI

ENTTEC

Stage Technologies

Stagecraft Institute of

Las Vegas

viewers tuning in – that’s nearly 9 million more than the Golden Globes and 12 million more than the Emmys this year. The popularity was put down in part to the performance-orientated program, with live crooning from modern-day divas including Beyoncé, Fergie, and Pink. Pink stole the show with a



Photo/Tanja Demarmels

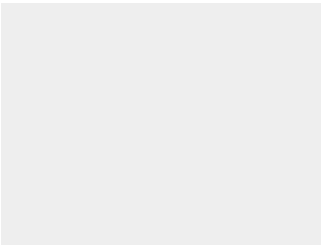
moving rendition of *Glitter in the Air* with a beautifully-choreographed and elegant trapeze act. The rigging system dipped her into a pool and lifted her out in a series of spins and a spray of water. Aerial Rigging Techniques once again chose to use a **Stage Technologies** AU:tour system and three BigTow winches, controlled with an Acrobat desk, to transport Pink to these heights. Aerial Rigging Techniques and Stage Technologies provided rigging expertise and rental equipment for Pink’s high-octane *Funhouse* tour. The stage engineering specialists helped Pink to add an extra dimension to her rendition of the Top 20 hit *Sober* at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards, where she was nominated for Best Female Video.

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Special Class for International Students

As part of a program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (EAC) and the Kennedy Center Cultural Visitors - Theatrical Designers Program, **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV)** will provide a special class for students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Uganda, Syria, Malaysia, Pakistan, Ghana, and Georgia. The students include two set designers, two costume designers, two lighting designers, and two sound designers. The class will be built around a mock design project for *Phantom of the Opera* and the technology involved in the production. Students will work with Emmy Award-winning director Robert Benedetti and Dallas theatre director Linda Leonard to establish a concept for the project. The participants will attend a number of shows in Vegas, tour several venues, and be treated to discussions, classes and demos by several theatre professionals.

The participants will begin their experience in the United States by attending USITT’s Conference in Kansas City March 31 to April 3, then will fly to Las Vegas where



they will meet with SILV directors and designers to work on their mock design project. The class will conclude with a presentation of the designs created by the participants followed by attending the Vegas production of *Phantom*.

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Successful Meeting, New Website

The Desert State Regional Section had a record turnout for its annual meeting January 18 at Horizon High School. The section appreciates Barbizon Phoenix for hosting breakfast. The keynote speaker was Bruce Brockman, Past President of USITT, and Director of the University of Arizona School of Theatre. Thanks go to workshop presenters Ben Alexander, Cari Koch, Cat Dragon, Chuck Seifried, Clyde Parker, David Empey, Gail Wolfenden-Steib, Jimmie Byrd, Kasey Nelson, Kate Ellis, Mike Arnold, Paul Bridgeman, and Cory Starr.



This year, Northern Arizona University had the largest student representation.



Desert State is observing its 10th anniversary this year, celebrating both the section anniversary and the Institute's 50th anniversary with a cake at the January meeting. Check the section website, www4.usitt.org/sections/desertstate/ for further section anniversary events.

Desert State Section congratulates Mercedes O'Bannion and Wrara Plesoiu, both from Arizona State University, and Marie Quinn from Northern Arizona University on winning the student award program this year. They will all receive free Conference registration to the 2010 Annual Conference in Kansas City and free student membership.

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Plan Media Design Workshop

Jake Pinholster, designer and professor, will present the Spring Professional Development Workshop for the Ohio Valley Regional Section. The two-day course, to be held May 22 and 23 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio,

This month:
Desert State
Ohio Valley

is entitled *Performance and Image: A Master Class in Media Design for the Stage*. It is designed as a stand-alone introduction to many of the theories and practices of media design for performance, also known as projection or video design. Instruction will cover functions of media in performance, basics of content creation, playback options for every budget, and tips and tricks for getting the most out of gear and thinking outside the (white, rectangular) box.

Mr. Pinholster is professor of media design at Arizona State University in the Herberger Institute School of Theatre and Film, one of the first design training programs in the country to offer a specialization in projection/video design for live performance. He is associate artist with Les Freres Corbusier. Off-Broadway credits include: *Escape from Bellevue*, *Dixie's Tupperware Party*, and *Boozy* (LFC, Hewes Award Nomination). New York credits include: David Dorfman Dance's underground (BAM) and *Disavowal*, *Dance Dance Revolution* (LFC), and *HeddaTRON* (LFC).

Regional work includes: *The Pee Wee Herman Show* (Club Nokia, LA), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Center Theater Group), *Hoover Comes Alive!* (La Jolla Playhouse), and *Current Nobody* (La Jolla Playhouse, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). He is director of the LDInstitute and production manager of the conference sessions at LDI.

The workshops are \$150 per participant, \$75 per observer.

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The opening of Stage Expo on Wednesday, and show hours that extended to 6 p.m. meant there was plenty of excitement to fill the first day of USITT's Annual Conference.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

Stage Expo 2010 Lights Up Kansas City, Missouri

Helen Willard

Stage Expo Sales Manager

The 50th Anniversary USITT Conference & Stage Expo featured a modified Stage Expo schedule allowing attendees to move directly from morning blockbuster sessions to Stage Expo. Exhibitors enjoyed large blocks of Stage Expo Only times, when no program sessions were scheduled, producing excellent traffic. Center Stage @ Stage Expo, the site for make-up competitions, scene painting demonstrations, and more, became the daily gathering spot for conference attendees.

Thanks to all the exhibitors for making Stage Expo 2010 such a terrific success.

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- The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey
- The University of Alabama
- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Thern Stage Equipment
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- TMB
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Sponsored Events and Services Enhance Conference

The Annual Conference is well underway and attendees are enjoying a variety of activities and services thanks to the support of USITT's sponsors. See the May issue of *Sightlines* for details and photos!

Web streaming of Blockbuster Sessions:

- Barbizon Lighting Company (Jennifer Tipton)
- H&H Specialties, Inc. (Oscar Brockett)

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