



NEWS LETTER

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC.
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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1970

NEW REGIONAL USITT SECTIONS

The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee approved a request for a Northern California Section at their October meeting. They also passed unanimously a motion to "endorse and encourage the concept of the establishment of a New York Section." A petition is being circulated to obtain the needed signatures to establish the section before January.

The Northern California group was chartered with 39 members, with Charles E. Williams of San Francisco State College as chairman.

The creation of two new regional sections is only a small part of USITT's total activity. George Gill is working in Florida to establish a section, and two meetings have been held so far. In North Carolina, Mark Sumner is doing the same, and William Herring is following suit in Georgia.

In Dallas, John Rothgeb is not limiting his activities simply to planning the best annual conference in the Institute's history, but he is also in the process of forming a Texas Section. We find in New England that a group called NEITT is presently conducting a comprehensive service and workshop program, but a USITT Section will soon be set up there to coordinate their work with ours. We have also received word from several schools that they are now contemplating student chapters.

At the present time, the Midwest Section has three states in its charter, but has member attendance from at least

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code committee formed

A new USITT Code Committee has been added to the Institute's other working groups, under the chairmanship of Richard D. Thompson, Director of Theatre and TV Studio Facilities at Imero-Florentino Associates.

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robinson new director

USITT President C. Ray Smith has announced that Hilyard Robinson of Washington, D.C., was unanimously elected to the Institute's Board of Directors in October. Mr. Robinson will fill the term vacated by Thomas DeGaetani on his appointment to the post of Executive Director. The term expires in May 1971.

annual conference

John Rothgeb announces that the annual conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Dallas on May 5 - 8. The activities will include sessions and tours at the new Southern Methodist University Bob Hope Theatre, the Dallas Theatre Center, the Scott Theatre in Fort Worth, the Peter Wolf Scenic Studios and much more. Convention keynote is informality and traditional Texas hospitality. John says "Y'all come!" The first mailing to the membership will be in January, and anyone who wants further information can write or call John (512-471-5793).

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HEADS UCLA PROGRAM

Hy Faine, national executive secretary of the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA-CIO) since 1946, has been named Professor of Arts Administration at the Graduate School of Business Administration, University of California Los Angeles, effective December 1st. It is the first time anyone has held that title there.

Professor Faine, a graduate of the Harvard Law School, has been associated with the American Federation of Radio Artists, the War Labor Board, and the U.S. State Department Cultural Exchange Program. He was a labor relations consultant to the Ministry of Labor in Israel in 1955-56.

The Arts Administration Program at UCLA was begun in 1969. Now in its second year, it will offer a master's degree in the specialized field of cultural administration. Its purpose is to train administrators for non-profit groups, such as museums, theatres, dance companies, orchestras, opera groups, as well as arts councils and other bodies supporting cultural enterprises.

"let there be light"

USITT's Presentation Committee will offer a program entitled "Let There be Light" at St. Clement's Episcopal Church in New York City on January 23, 1971 at 3:00 P.M.

It will consist of a panel discussion based on Donald Oenslager's 1947 article of the same name in Theatre Arts. The panel will evaluate how successfully modern technology has fulfilled the demands set forth by a lighting designer more than two decades ago.

The panel will include

Donald Oenslager, noted scenic artist

Fred M. Wolf, former chief engineer and head of research and development, Century Lighting,

Martin Aaronstein, Broadway lighting designer,

the USITT newsletter

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dewey replaces thayer

Walter S. Dewey has been selected to fill the vacancy created by David L. Thayer's resignation as technical secretary of USITT.

A resident of De Kalb, Illinois, Mr. Dewey attended Antioch College and received his doctorate from the University of Iowa in 1952. While teaching at the University of Iowa, Ohio State University, and Northern Illinois University, he worked in summer theatres in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

He is presently a contributing editor of Players Magazine and a consultant on new theatre buildings to Wisconsin State University.

William Warfel, Professor of Stage Lighting, the Yale Drama School

Donald Gerstoff, lighting consultant, environmental lighting specialist

Steven Miller, registered architect, member of IATSE

Ron Olson, vice-chairman of the USITT Presentation Committee (Moderator)

The Presentation Committee stimulates research in an attempt to explore the creative and interpretive elements of theatre art, and to communicate the results of this research to the theatre community at large.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Northern California Section held three meetings this fall. The first two were devoted to organization and to meeting the application requirements for the establishment of a new USITT section.

The initial meeting, which took place on October 7th, was attended by about 45 people. USITT Executive Director Tom DeGaetani addressed the meeting, and spoke on USITT's future plans and national activities.

The second meeting, which took place on October 21st, marked the signing of the USITT Section application by 40 dues-paying Institute members. Ten days later, the Board of Directors accepted the application.

The last fall meeting was held on December 2nd, for the purpose of informing the members of the Board's action.

As yet, the Section's future activities are still in the planning stage. We hope to hold monthly meetings, in and around the San Francisco Bay area. The Section has agreed to participate with the Southern California Section in the annual meeting of the California Educational Theatre Association, which will take place on April 2, 3, and 4 in Sacramento. We have not yet decided on the degree or extent of the participation.

Officers of the Northern California Section are as follows:

CHAIRMAN: Charles E. Williams
Department of Drama
San Francisco State Coll.

VICE CHM: J. Leonard Auerbach
Bolt, Beranek & Newman

SEC-TREAS: Derek Hunt
Dept. of Speech and Drama
Stanford University

The Section has set up four committees, paralleling the national organization. They cover architecture, engineering, presentation, and administration. Three have already begun their activities, and the fourth plans to do so very soon.

MIDWEST

USITT's Midwest Section began its third season with a talk and slide show by Goodman Theatre designer James Maronek, who discussed unconventional approaches to scenic design. Illustrating with slides of sketches, models and actual productions, he suggested several gambits for freeing the designer's mind, such as selecting and breaking a rule ("Don't use white on stage"). He proposed that the designer consider how his play might be done as a ballet, or how a period piece might be done in a modern setting. Turn your budget limitations into assets by using them (if lumber is too expensive, try hanging unframed muslin panels).

The talk was attended by 90 people. Questions and discussion followed. A drive for new memberships has resulted in applications for 58 regular, 13 student, and two organizational members.

The Sections second fall meeting took place in October at the Art Drapery Studios, Inc. of Chicago. Dr. Bernhard Works presented a slide lecture prepared by John Morris, former safety coordinator of the University of Illinois, who is a member of the code committee of the National Fire Protection Association. His lecture was a carefully researched analysis of the Iroquois Theatre fire, and described the damage and the safety discrepancies and errors that contributed to that disaster. Slides showed the physical make-up of the theatre, its exit problems, and the source and nature of the fire.

After the lecture, there was a panel discussion on the subject of theatre fire safety. Panelists were Dr. Walter Dewey, theatre consultant; Paul Tyler, lighting consultant, and Max Roller of the Channon Corporation. They outlined the need for proper housekeeping duties in stage and backstage shop areas, and safe requirements in building structure and stage equipment.

There were 78 members in attendance, and the meeting ended with a tour of Art Drapery Studios and the J.H. Channon Corp.

services and research

We are pleased to announce that on September 30th, 1970, USITT was officially designated Service Affiliate to the Arts and Humanities Division of the National Office of Education (O of E) in the areas of performing arts-architecture, -engineering and -administration. Under the present terms of the arrangement, USITT will be the early recipient of basic information on O of E funding programs in support of the arts. An early issue of the NEWSLETTER will find this page devoted to detailed information on such federal programs.

The following represents a selected, preliminary list of new research projects on which USITT hopes to embark during calendar year 1971:

- +A book constituting "Guidelines for the Programming and Planning of Performing Arts Facilities"; accretive in nature, the whole would be made up of parts contributed by USITT Standing and Research Committees as well as elements reflecting inter-organizational effort.
- +"A Prototypical Design Solution for Conversion of Gymnasias to Performing Arts Usage," a collaborative effort of USITT and the Chimera Foundation (Alwin Nikolais, Murray Louis and Betty Young).
- +"Case Studies On and Guidelines for the Programming and Planning of Public Educational Facilities as Community Cultural Resources."
- +"Case Studies On and Guidelines for the Conversion of University and College Clear Story Spaces to Multi-Purpose Arts Uses."
- +"The State of the Art of and Design Criteria for Acoustical Shells," a project of the newly established Engineering Subcommittee on Audio and Acoustics.
- +"A Prototypical Curriculum in Performing Arts Administration Training."
- +"Design Criteria for Stage Floors to Accommodate Dance," a collaborative project of USITT, Association of American Dance Companies and the American Guild of Musical Artists.

In addition to the foregoing, the following projects are actively in progress:

- +"Standardized Lighting Symbols," a project of the Engineering Committee.
- +"Road Show Advance Form," a project of the Presentation Committee.
- +"Stage Managers' Survey," a project of the Presentation Committee.

In keeping with the "Speakers and Seminar Bureau" services concept announced in the September 1970 NEWSLETTER, and as a continuing manifestation of an active Domestic Liaison program, USITT Regional and National resource personnel will participate in panels and open meetings at the below listed national or regional conferences of sister organizations. USITT members-at-large are encouraged to attend and participate.

- Dec. 14, NYC, Association of College and University Concert Managers (ACUCM), panel discussion on "Planning of College Performing Arts Centers."
- Dec. 28, New Orleans, Speech Communications Association (SCA), "USITT Open Meeting" to discuss USITT liaison with and services to SCA's developing theatre division, and development of a USITT Louisianan Regional Section.
- Jan. 22, 23, 24, Mills College, Calif., Association of American Dance Companies (AADC), California Regional Meeting, panel on "Innovative Projection Techniques for Dance Performance."
- Feb. 26-March 1, Atlantic City, Music Educators National Conference, "Innovative Techniques in Lighting and Staging Musical Performances."
- March 3-6, Columbus, Ga., SouthEastern Theatre Conference (SETC), panel on "Aspects of Performing Arts Administration Training Programs."
- April, Nashville, Tenn., National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts (NADSA), panel on "Low Budget Theatre Technic."
- April, Sacramento, Calif., California Educational Theatre Association (CETA), USITT to assist in preparation and presentation of panels on subjects within USITT's areas of expertise.

Inquiries and comments concerning the above programs are most welcome, and should be addressed to Thomas DeGaetani, Executive Director, U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology, 245 West 52nd Street, NYC, NY 10019.

We also wish to encourage members who are visiting New York to meet with the staff while you are here. Two weeks notice by mail or phone would be helpful.

NEW MEMBERS

THE INSTITUTE IS PLEASED TO WELCOME 86 NEW MEMBERS. CODE NUMBERS AND LETTERS IN THE RIGHT-HAND MARGINS INDICATE THE CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST AS NOTED BELOW.

1. Board of Directors. I. Individual.
2. Executive Committee. S. Student.
3. Presentation Comm. O. Organizational.
4. Architecture Comm. U. Sustaining.
5. Engineering Comm. X. Exchange.
6. Administration Comm. V. Special.
7. Publication Comm. H. Honorary.
8. Public Relations. N. Non-Voting.

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regional (contin'd)

five additional states. A proposed new section for Minneapolis-Saint Paul would mean the loss of part of the Midwest's chartered Wisconsin area .

The Midwest Section has also been asked to hold meetings in Saint Louis, with the hope that they can arouse interest in a section for that area. You can assist the Institute by working closely with the section in your region, if one exists. If there is none, you can help to form one.

Regional section and student chapter activity are making this a banner year for USITT. At the present rate of new growth, we will have achieved a fifty per cent increase in membership for the two-year span from January 1, 1969 to January 1, 1971. The Membership Committee requests your help in making the Institute grow through local recruiting activity.

code (contin'd)

The committee will have three subcommittees, to cover the fields of building codes, the National Electric Code, and safety codes. A fourth subgroup will serve in an advisory capacity on code problems.

Volunteers are requested to serve on the new committee. In the near future Mr. Thompson will send a questionnaire to the members, but in the meantime, anyone who is interested may call him at 212-787-7763.

CALENDAR

- JANUARY 23 Presentation Committee Symposium, "Let There Be Light", 3:00 P.M., St. Clement's Episcopal Church, New York City
- JANUARY 28 Executive Committee, New York City, 6:45 P.M.
- FEBRUARY 25 Executive Committee New York City, 6:45 P.M.
- MAY 5 - 8 Annual USITT Conference, Marriott Hotel, Dallas, Texas. (Details will be mailed to members in early January)
- MAY 23 - 26 "Washington and the Arts", Associated Councils of the Arts conference, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- MAY 23 - 27 "Lighting 2000", World Colloquium of the Illuminating Engineering Society, Theatre, Television and Film Lighting Committee, Roosevelt Hotel, New York City.

CALL FOR PAPERS: The Theatre, TV and Film Lighting Committee of the Illuminating Engineering Society is seeking papers for its World Colloquium, to be held at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York in May. They should be on specialized subjects such as colorimetry, color media, light sources and luminaires, or projection techniques. Proposals must be submitted before the end of January to Peter Otto, ABCTV, 1330 Sixth Avenue N.Y. 10019; or C.J. Neenan, Comstock Company, Inc., 155 East 44th Street, N.Y.C.

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