



NEWS LETTER

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC.
245 WEST 52nd STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 (212) 757-7138

VOLUME XI NUMBER 2

MARCH/APRIL, 1972

1972 CONFERENCE

Who? What? When & Where? Begin with USITTers gathering for an annual conference: then when: March 26th through 29th, which turned out to be the best you could hope of spring; then add where: San Francisco -- unarguably one of the world's most beautiful cities, and, blessed with supremely good planning - you have one hell of a successful get-to-gether. And such, I'm convinced, anyone who attended, found the '72 Conference to be.

Opening on Saturday the 25th. (a day before the official beginning of festivities) with the judging of the first USITT Design Competition, things got formally underway with the opening of the Industry Show and Design Competition Show on Sunday, a day ending in a reception at The Top of The Mark Hopkins at which the planned-for cash bar was free, accidentally. Either USITTers attending forgot how much they drank at that happy affair, or else -- more likely -- USITT was unexpected host to imbibing tourists who happened through during the festivities, for subsequent pleas to remit to the Conference treasury were not entirely successful.

Monday was marked by a morning forum, and tours of Zellerbach Hall at the University of California at Berkeley and the San Francisco Opera House in the afternoon.

Tuesday investigated a seminar on the Design Applications of Scenic Projection, and also included clinics at San Francisco State College on Plastics in the Theatre, Portable/Economical Theatrical Sound Systems and Recording Units, Low and Medium Budget Projection Techniques, Photographic Murals, the Theatre Organization Package organized by the Architecture Committee and presented in SF by Derek Hunt, a workshop on Teaching Technical Theatre, and another on Basic Music Editing. In addition there were clinics on Prop Techniques, Sculpture, Remote Operated Sound Effects Devices, Elevation of Stage Platforms, Smoke Projection, and a pot pourri of

stage effect items and ideas entitled: Show and Tell.

On Wednesday, the seminar on Scenic Movement: The Designer's Dilemma, was heavily attended, as was, of course, the General Membership Meeting at mid-day. The afternoon was filled with seminars on Designing for Thrust Stages, and a later one on the Designer and the Director, both before a final reception preceding the Awards Banquet, held in the Mark Hopkins' Peacock Court.

FM-L, Editor

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE - Chairman: Charles Williams

Robert Segrin	James Earle	James Wright
Richard Davis	Albert Gibson	Robert Osborn
Gene Chesley	Norma Siani	Eric Sinkkonen
Frank Zwolinski	Leonard Auerbach	Jack Byers
Eugene McGinty	Allen Gross	George Smedberg
Andrew DeShong		Derek Hunt

CITATION TO DEAN WALTERS

WALTER H. WALTERS

USITT Citation to Walter H. Walters, President of USITT, 1971-1972

WHEREAS: He became President during a period of transition and development in the USITT which required special ability to bring together various constituent elements, AND WHEREAS he expanded the concept and reality of Regional Sections, AND WHEREAS he felt and responded to the need for a restructuring of the USITT to better relate to this evolution, WE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONOR HIM FOR HIS SENSE OF COMMUNITY, HIS ABILITY TO BRING CONSENSUS OUT OF CONFLICT, AND HIS CREATION OF A PLATFORM FROM WHICH WE MAY VIEW NEW VISTAS FOR USITT.

IN SUM "TO THIS ORGANIZATION HE BROUGHT ORGANIZATION."

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
San Francisco, Calif.
March, 1972

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION ON ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The following resolution, recommended by the National Committee on Theatre Administration, was passed by the USITT Board of Directors on 26 March, 1972:

WHEREAS, USITT is a non-parochial, interdisciplinary organization attempting to stimulate, document and disseminate experience in the performing arts and their technology, and
WHEREAS, the Committee on Theatre Administration has been a seminal element of USITT since its inception, and
WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that administration and management have critical roles to play in furthering the arts through audience development and otherwise broadening their base of support,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, USITT recognizes and reaffirms its responsibilities and commitments to the "Majority" (Non-establishment) and "Minority" (establishment) cultures and therefore directs its National Administration Committee to continue and expand activities, national and regional, inter- and intra-organizational, which are calculated to promote collaboration amongst the arts on all levels and the private, governmental and educational sources for development, support and expansion of the arts on a regional and national level.

RESOLUTION ON PATE COMMITTEE

The following motion, made by Richard Davis, was passed at the USITT Annual Membership Meeting, 29 March 1972:

That the convention charge the PATE Committee with developing a set of national criteria for evaluation of programs in theatre design and technology and expresses a USITT commitment to evaluation of groups and institutions involved in theatre design and technology education.

USITT FOUNDERS AWARD

USITT FOUNDERS AWARD 1972

For his unceasing personal commitment to the advancement of the USITT, The Board of Directors proudly presents its Founders Award to:

DR. JOEL E. RUBIN

WHO, as a founding member and first Technical Secretary established an important emphasis on theatre research and scholarship,
AND WHO, in his terms as President expanded the scope and influence of the Institute with the establishment of the first Regional Section and particularly through the establishment of "Theatre Design & Technology - The Journal of the USITT."
AND WHO, through continuing service has expanded our horizons by his leadership in the

international sphere of theatre scenography and technology.

WE, the Board of Directors commend his service value his sense of scholarship and excellence, and honor his contributions to and the expansion of the aims and goals of the USITT.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
San Francisco, Calif.
March, 1972

RESPONSE TO THE USITT FOUNDERS AWARD - 1972

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Mr. Past President, Fellow Members of USITT, Honored Guests:

You must forgive my absence, especially upon this occasion. A long-standing personal commitment prevents being with you at a 12th consecutive USITT Conference.

I am deeply appreciative of this Award.

If the Founders Award is made for hours of service it may just possibly be deserved. My family -- (and I am afraid my employer also) -- is intimately aware of the tens of hundreds of hours that must have been spent by now.

Perhaps the award is given for the distinction of finally having completed the Consultant's List project. I was the first -- and the last -- but not the only Chairman of the Committee. The project has been completed but it was surely the longest non-active project in USITT archives, having originated eleven years ago.

Or, did the Awards Committee simply decide it ought to honor some arch member of the USITT's "New York mafia."

Perhaps those have been the reasons for the presentation of the Founders Award.

I am honored to accept this award because it is given by an organization designed to collect and illuminate experience and to debate and communicate ideas -- specifically, the experience and ideas of all those responsible for facilities and production for the performing arts.

You are really honoring your own passionate agreement with me that USITT has not only the potential but has capably demonstrated its ability to advance the state of the performing arts.

You share our common faith that the strength and uniqueness of USITT is that it has avoided insularity of both professions and regions. Both our past and the future lie in the interplay of disciplines and the dynamic balance between regional sections and an overall national effort.

You share my conviction that the urgency of theatrical needs argues in behalf of imagination and optimism rather than excessive caution. We will meet those challenges that are significant and bold and therefore cry out for solution.

It has been my privilege to have served the Institute since -- (and even before) -- its inception. I look forward both to the work we will be doing together and to the companionship that goes with it. .

With sincere thanks,

JOEL E. RUBIN
Hastings-on-Hudson
March 29, 1972

USITT AWARD

THE USITT AWARD
1972
IS PRESENTED TO
JO MIELZINER

WHO, as artist and artisan, has created poetic living images for more than 250 drama, musical, opera, and dance productions. Imbued with an inner life, his creative scenic designs and integrated lighting flow from the playwrights' concepts. He is a collaborator in its deepest meanings. AND WHO, as author and educator, has unselfishly shared his knowledge and vast experience with his peers and future theatre artists and technicians.

AND WHO, with his innovative talent, has influenced and inspired higher attainments in the art of stagecraft.

AND WHO, as consultant and architectural collaborator, has expanded the horizons of the performing space.

WE, the Board of Directors, aware of his fifty years of continuous accomplishment in the American theatre, honor him as an esteemed human being and a major artist.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
San Francisco, Calif.
March, 1972

ACCEPTANCE AND THANKS FROM JO MIELZINER:

I feel in accepting this award a very special honor has been conferred on me by the people who care the most in theatre. You are my fellow artists and craftsmen whose contribution in the theatre means professionalism.

I am deeply grateful to you.

JO MIELZINER
March 24, 1972

RESOLUTION

ARTIST & ADMINISTRATOR INTERACTION

The following motion, made by Randolph Swartz, was passed at the USITT Annual Membership Meeting, 29 March 1972:

That the next Annual USITT Conference incorporate and recognize as a principal theme the function and importance of arts administrators and administration curriculum; and that the Conference affirm that an urgent need exists for interaction between the artist and the administrator.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected to the Board of Directors:

Dr. Richard Arnold	Thomas Lemons
S. Leonard Auerbach	Charles Levy
Jerry Bell	Glenn Naselius
Willard F. Bellman	Ron Olson
Arthur Benline	Ed Peterson, Jr.
Robert L. Benson	George Petterson
Dr. Ned Bowman	Larry Riddle
Harold Burris-Meyer	Hilyard Robinson
James Campbell	John Rothgeb
Leslie Cortesi	Dr. Joel Rubin
Mert Cramer	C. Ray Smith
William Crocken	Nathan Sonnenfeld
Walter Dewey	Barrie Stavits
Gene E. Diskey	Delano Stewart
Dr. Gary Gaiser	Dr. Donald Swinney
David Hale	Dr. David Thayer
George T. Howard	John Van Eyck
Derek Hunt	Walter H. Walters
Mary Hunter	Ann Folke Wells
James Klain	Terry Wells
Edward Kook	Robert W. Wenck
Thomas Lehman	Charles Williams

NEW OFFICERS

The following were elected officers of USITT by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at the USITT Annual Conference in San Francisco:

PRESIDENT	NED A. BOWMAN
1st VICE PRESIDENT:	RICHARD ARNOLD
2nd VICE PRESIDENT:	MERT CRAMER
TECHNICAL SECRETARY:	EDWARD F. KOOK
TREASURER:	RON OLSON
SECRETARY:	ROBERT TEITELBAUM

BIO. OF PRES. BOWMAN

USITT President Ned A. Bowman received his formal theatre training at Indiana University with USITT's Gary Gaiser and Dick Scommon, and subsequently received theatre and TV training at the University of Iowa, with Arnold Gillette and Walter Dewey.

Subsequently he was a permit IATSE technician in San Diego's Local 128 before serving in the Army in Frankfurt, Germany. He has since been a designer-tech director at the University of North Dakota, Stanford, and the University of Pittsburgh, completing a PhD at Stanford with a dissertation on theatre architecture.

Since 1960 he has served on the theatre staff of the University of Pittsburgh, being involved along the way as Theatre Design and Technology's first editor (1965-70), and founding Arts Information International (1970), an arts information center.

Asked about avocations, President Bowman admits to none that don't relate somehow to his work. But paraphrasing Mr. Bojangles, he offers: "I travels a bit."

GORDON CRAIG CENTENNIAL

Dr. Joel E. Rubin, International Liaison Committee Chairman, reports that the International Organization of Scenographers and

(contd on p.6)

SERVICES & RESEARCH

Present plans call for publication of Project Supplements to be resumed with the next NEWSLETTER. In the interim, this issue's Services & Research page is given over to the following message from the Institute's newly-elected Technical Secretary, Edward F. Kook. The title "Technical Secretary" will change to "Second Vice-President" on July 1.

To the Membership:

USITT has a primary commitment to disseminate information and facilitate communication for the professional development of its members. USITT means to broaden and heighten the quality of its research and investigation in the fields of theatre planning and design, construction, equipment, aesthetics, presentation and operations through the Commissions on Administration, Architecture, Codes, Engineering, Performing Arts Training and Education, and Presentation Technology. And so it will work to uncover the new, the different, and the unique as they relate to all visual and aural phases in the world of living theatre. And it will make them known through seminars and publications.

As is reported elsewhere in this issue of the NEWSLETTER, the Board of Directors approved a new set of By-Laws in San Francisco. The following excerpts from those By-Laws relate directly to USITT's research process:

"A Commission on Projects shall be established to promote, recognize and provide assistance to the project activities of the Corporation. The Commission shall endorse specific projects and appoint Project Directors. Projects recognized by the Commission may be conducted by one person or a group of many, regional or national in scope and for short term or long term study. Project Directors shall be expected to submit regular reports on the progress of the project and a final report. A project shall continue to have the endorsement of the Commission as long as it shows satisfactory progress and productivity. The Commission shall submit the results and reports for potential dissemination to the members of the Corporation through its regular publications and project supplements....

"The Commission on Projects shall be administered by Commissioners who have special expertise in specific theatre fields. They shall be appointed by the President of the Corporation and serve under the chairmanship of the Second Vice-President.

"The Commissioners shall be selected from a variety of specialized fields of theatre such as, but not limited to, Administration,

Architecture, Codes, Engineering, Performing Arts Training and Education, and Theatrical Presentation.

"The Commissioners may establish committees, advisory groups and project groups in their efforts to stimulate and coordinate projects. The Commissioners shall submit annual reports to the Board of Directors."

Accordingly, President Ned Bowman has made the following appointments:

- Commissioner of Theatre Administration:
Silas Edman
c/o Sweeney/Edman Enterprises
175 Fulton Street
Hempstead, N. Y. 11550
- Commissioner of Theatre Architecture:
Barbara Leslie Cortesi
c/o Pokorny & Pertz
313 East 43rd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017
- Commissioner of Codes:
George T. Howard
George T. Howard & Assocs.
7046 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 711
Hollywood, Ca. 90028
- Commissioner of Theatre Engineering:
Frederick Wolff
50 Myrtle Avenue
Montclair, N. J. 07042
- Commissioner of Performing Arts Training and Education:
James R. Earle
Department of Drama
San Jose State College
San Jose, Ca. 95114
- Commissioner of Presentation Technology:
Ann Folke Wells
P. O. Box 238
Pleasant Gap, Pa. 16823

Commissioners seek a cross-section of workers to serve WITH them for the ensuing year. Implicit in volunteering to serve a Commission or a project is your willingness to serve and work earnestly and conscientiously; to assume the responsibility of your assignment; a commitment to complete the task within a designated time. USITT is made up of people. USITT will go forward through its people's participation; intelligent participation; and participation means involvement; being an activist. Send your name and qualifications to one of the Commissioners above. Be an activist and know joy is in "doing".

I welcome questions and comments concerning the above. Please address them to:

Edward F. Kook
USITT Technical Secretary
234 West 44th Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

CONFERENCE SUPPORT

IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONFERENCE SUPPORT

The Board of Directors of the USITT, on behalf of its officers and members, herewith acknowledges the generous assistance to the 12th Annual USITT National Conference represented by

- . Standard Oil (NJ), Robert Kingsley, Director of Urban Affairs; services grant in support of First Annual USITT Scenic and Costume Design Competition Awards, and panelists' travel.
- . ITI/USA, Rosamond Gilder, President; travel fellowship grant to permit participation of Miroslav Pflug.
- . Century Strand Inc., Phillip Rose, President; services grant for panelist participation.
- . Hub Electric Co., Al Koga, Assistant to the General Manager; services grant for panelist participation.
- . Kliegl Brothers Lighting Co., John H. Kliegl II, President; services grant for panelist participation.
- . Skirpan Lighting Control, Stephen Skirpan, President; services grant for panelist participation.
- . Peter Albrecht Corporation, Paul Birkle, President; services grant for panelist participation.
- . Ariel Davis, Inc., Provo, Utah; services grant for panelist participation.
- . Berkey Colortran, Joseph Tawil, President; services grant for panelist participation.
- . GTE/Sylvania, Danvers, Mass.; services grant for panelist participation.

The Board of Directors
San Francisco
March, 1972

SVOBODA VISIT

On behalf of USITT and OISTT, Dr. Joel E. Rubin -- USITT International Liaison Chairman and OISTT President -- is coordinating a series of visits around the country by Josef Svoboda, internationally famous Czech designer-architect.

It is hoped that Svoboda will be able to visit college and university design programs, meet with area USITTers, and also be able to work with selected numbers of design students on play assignments which he will select.

Dr. Rubin is counting on USITT regional sections to aid in coordinating this effort wherever possible.

AADC CONFERENCE

The Association of American Dance Companies will hold its Annual Conference on 8-11 June at New York University. Keynote speaker at the conference will be Nancy Hanks, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Conference will feature workshops and panels dealing with administrative concerns concerned with the relationship of arts councils to industry.

TEXAS SHORT COURSE

The Technical Theatre Short Course Extension on Stage Lighting was held at the Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

Local arrangements were handled by Sister Germaine Corbin. The instructors were David Deacon, Secretary of the Texas Section, and Andy Gibbs, the First Vice-chairman. Approximately sixty people attended the course, which was directed largely at high school and community theatre personnel. The successful day's work ran from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon. Our thanks go to the Incarnate Word College for a grant to cover the expenses of the instructors.

The next session of the Short Course will be held September 15 and 16 at the Drama Department of the University of Texas at Austin. Local Arrangements will be handled by National PATE Chairman John Rothgeb.

The Short Course is open to anyone interested in basic techniques of theatrical instruction, aimed primarily at high school and community theatre personnel. The registration fee will be \$12.50, and will include a banquet at the close of the course.

ACOUSTIC COLLOQUIUM

The USITT, through its New York Area Section Subcommittee on Audio and Acoustics, in cooperation with the New York State Council on the Arts (The Colloquium is made partially possible by a services grant from the New York Council on the Arts; admission is free) -- is sponsoring "The USITT Concert Shell Colloquium" at the Auditorium, Library and Museum of Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, 111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N.Y. on Friday, June 23 from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The purpose is to explore the acoustic, structural, and architectural design of demountable concert shells for multi-purpose auditoriums through illustrated lectures, panel presentations, and discussion sessions featuring the nation's top experts in the fields of acoustics and theatre design, including:

Christopher Jaffe
Russell Johnson
R.L. Kirkegaard
David Klepper
Vincent Piacentini

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Theatre Technicians (OISTT) - of which Dr. Rubin is president - is planning a special issue of the OISTT Bulletin in commemoration of the centennial of Gordon Craig's birth. USITT members may submit articles on Craig and aspects of his work, in two copies, to Dr. Ned Bowman, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Penna. 15213, no later than September 1, 1972, for OISTT Bulletin con-

sideration. Dr. Bowman is soliciting similar material on Adolphe Appia as well. The USITT Board has requested that the Journal mark the Craig Centennial in appropriate fashion, and the Editor reports that the May Journal will contain an article by Glenn Loney and Arnold Rood titled: GORDON CRAIG WALKS AT BAYREUTH.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

USITT wishes to welcome the following new members who have recently joined our ranks. The code numbers and letters in the right-hand margin indicate the class of membership and committee participation or interest as noted.

1 Board of Directors	I Individual
2 Executive Council	S Student
3 Presentation Committee	O Organizational
4 Architecture Committee	U Sustaining
5 Engineering Committee	X Exchange
6 Administration Committee	V Specialty
7 Publications Committee	H Honorary
8 Public Relations	N Non-voting

470 East Lockwood Ave.
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Philadelphia, Pa. 19122

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Albany, N.Y. 12203

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Attn: Robert L. Cox
425 West 57th St.
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Mr. William V. Anderson 4-SN
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CALENDAR

- June 8 - 11: Association of American Dance Companies Conference, New York University
- June 10: Business and the Arts Symposium, Glens Falls, N. Y.
- June 23: USITT Concert Shell Colloquium, Lincoln Center

GROOM WINS USITT AWARD, DESIGN

The 1972 Scenic Design Competition at the American College Theatre Festival was won by William Groom, of the College Theatre, Southeastern Oklahoma State College, Durant, Oklahoma, for his OF MICE AND MEN submission. The \$500 prize was sponsored by USITT.

USITT NEWSLETTER

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Ford Korper

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ENLIST

A

NEW

MEMBER

NOW!!

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J.H. Channon Corp.	Little Stage Lighting Co.	Perkins & Will Corp.
J.R. Clancy Co.	Major Corporation	Jean Rosenthal Assoc.
General Electric Co.	New York Costume Co., Inc.	GTE/Sylvania
Hoffend & Sons, Inc.	Rosco Laboratories	Ward Leonard of Canada



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