



## NEWS LETTER

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

Volume XII Number 2

March/April 1973

### St. Louis Conference --- A Smash Hit

If you were there, you know. If you weren't, well, you missed something quite rare...a productive, joyful and truly stimulating conference. Thanks to Conference Chairman Peter Sargent and his army of aides, there was absolutely no opportunity to be bored.

Sandwiched between tours of the remodeled Powell Symphony Hall, Washington University's Edison Theatre complex, and the thrust-stage Loretto Hilton Center's Repertory Theatre were all manner of enticing discussion groups. Several sessions dealt with theatre administration (road touring, training for arts management, front-of-house operations); others touched all bases, including demonstrations of portable grids, winches and stages, makeup for film, the AARP synthesizer, plastic welding and flexible urethane foam (something for everyone, indeed!)

Keynote speaker at the Monday night banquet was Mr. Jo Mielziner, who discussed the questions "How Dependent is the Artist on the Engineer? How Dependent is the Engineer on the Artist?"

Four outstanding individuals received USITT awards at the banquet: Dr. Harold Burris-Meyer - annual Founder's Award; Prof. A. S. Gillette - Award for Lifetime Contribution to the American Theatre; Frank Silberstein - Annual Publication Award for his article in the December Journal, "Field Constructed Long Radius Tubing Bender"; and a special award to Mr. Jarka Burian for his outstanding book, The Scenography of Josef Svoboda.

Two major successes were the premiere of the Architecture Commission's Theatre Orientation Package Slide Show of selected theatres built since 1960, and the Jonell Polansky/Robert Slutske paper on "Synthesizing Remote Controlled Systems in the Performing Arts" (which sparked a Great Debate).

New York City will host the 1974 Conference (April 18-21, for those who like to plan ahead). And in 1975 -- Disneyland! (the West Coast one, that is). The success of the St. Louis Conference has set some very high standards for N.Y. and California to live up to. Here's to bigger and better things in the coming years!

### ARCHITECTURE AGONISTES

HELP! The Theatre Orientation Package Slide Show was presented for the first time at the St. Louis Conference. A flyer was distributed there, stating that the slide show plus written commentary could be rented for \$15 for not longer than two weeks, or purchased for \$40. It has since been discovered that the purchase price will be perhaps double the original figure.

Is there any USITT member involved in photographic reproduction who might bail the Commission out (like by quoting a lower price)? If so, please contact Leslie Armstrong Cortesi, Armstrong/Childs, Architects, 170 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. 10010 im-med-i-ate-ly.

Should anyone wish to have the show delivered by a Commission member, rather than purchase the slides, this can be arranged for a nominal fee (covering travel expenses and the person's time). This would be more economical than purchasing the slides, and possibly more productive.

### MASTER CLASSES BY GROSSER SET FOR NOV.

HELMUT GROSSER, Technical Director of the Cologne Opera, and Editor of the Buhentechnische Rundschau, has agreed to conduct a series of Master Classes in the U.S. during November of this year.

USITT's International Liaison Committee plans to continue the successful format established in the Josef Svoboda lectures of last November. Thus, each regional section of USITT is being offered first opportunity to put together a collective of participating colleges and universities in their region. Following this, individual institutions or collectives outside of the regional sections will be eligible for the Grosser classes.

As with the Svoboda classes, leading students from the participating institutions will join in the intensive three-day series of master classes in each region. Grosser (who is fluent in English) will work with a maximum of perhaps 25-30 students in each regional seminar, although he will deliver a public lecture for a wider audience, as well.

It has been said of Grosser that he not only understands, but commands the problems of true repertory production. Although only in his mid-forties, he has worked and lectured extensively throughout Europe; his position at Cologne is one of the three or four most demanding in the German technical theatre. Grosser's background in repertory theatre and opera is expected to appeal to not only technical and design students in opera and theatre, and to students in theatre administration and management, but also to a larger music and theatre group.

If your institution desires to participate in the Grosser Master Classes, please direct a letter to your regional USITT section chairman, with a copy to the International Liaison Committee at the USITT National Office. If you aren't in a regional section of USITT and your institution wishes to participate in the Master Class program, please direct your inquiry to International Liaison Committee c/o USITT National Office. Further information can also be obtained directly from Joel E. Rubin, Committee Chairman, at (212) 786-7474.

# THE LATEST WORDS FROM OUR COMMISSIONS

## Engineering

Three very important and interesting projects are moving along nicely under the Committee's sponsorship. (1) Several meetings have been held and preliminary tests made for the Stage Floors for Dance project, a joint venture of USITT's Engineering and Theatre Architecture Committees, AADC and AGMA. (2) Centralized vs. Fragmented Control Systems has been retitled Synthesizing Remote Controlled Systems in the Performing Arts. This project was presented in a lively seminar at the St. Louis Convention. (3) A Method of Lighting Dance Tours has been accepted for undertaking, costs to be underwritten by AADC. This project may be completed by the end of 1973.

-projects-  
-theses-  
-ideas-

Of special interest (graduate students groping for thesis topics, take heed!): The following is a list of projects which have been suggested in the past. Some were started, then dropped. All are subjects which fall under the "Theatre Engineering" classification and have been judged worthwhile as individual, group or thesis projects. If any topic interests you, contact the USITT National Theatre Engineering Commission. The Commission will try to coordinate the projects and eliminate duplications.

- A. Safety Requirements in Using Xenon and Tungsten-Halogen Lamps.
- B. Human Engineering Criteria in the Design of Theatre Lighting Controls.
- C. Evaluation Factors in the Selection of Theatre Dimmers.
- D. Touring with Piano Boards, Auto Transformers, and Electronic Dimmers.
- E. Practical & Theoretical Problems in Touring Opera.
- F. Mechanized Heavy Stage Equipment (note: surveys have been made and a number of papers have been prepared, but these have not been brought together or updated for some time).
- G. Functional, Operational and Design Criteria for Stage Houses/Systems.
- H. The Aesthetics & Technical Implications of Moving Scenery.
- I. Transparencies for High Power Projection.
- J. A Technical Theatre Information Filing System.
- K. Vacuum Press Application for Scenery.
- L. Geometric Requirements for Theatre Projections.
- M. Moving the Stage Floor.
- N. Switchboard & Dimmer Surveys (note: these surveys are presently being carried out by the Florida and Texas Regions, but no reports have been received and no other areas are being covered to our knowledge).

\* \* \*

Final news: watch for articles on "Speech & Acoustics in the Theatre" and the Standard Symbols for Stage Lighting Equipment in TD&T. Both should appear in upcoming issues.

## PATE

All USITT members are urged to send sample auditorium/production groundplans to Mr. Paul Camp, Dept. of Drama, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30601. Mr. Camp is currently engaged in a PATE project aiming to develop a recommended series of standard plan view symbols for groundplans (excluding electrics). He needs samples from as many sources as possible in order to have some basis of comparison.

In cooperation with the Education Committee of OISTT, PATE Commission is attempting to gather technical theatre curricula from all over the U.S. to send to various international meetings for examination. These curricula will also aid PATE in its efforts to study the need for minimum standards in theatre design and technology in this country. All USITT members in educational institutions are encouraged to send sample curricula to J.R. Earle, Jr., Calif. State Univ., Dept. of Drama, San Jose, Calif. 95192.

## Membership

Under the conscientious chairmanship of James Campbell, USITT's 1972-73 Membership Directory was completed and mailed in mid-March. Chairman Campbell's Commission is now preparing a long-needed addendum to the Directory, Membership by States & Countries.

Good news: total USITT membership has increased approximately 14% in the six-month period from June, 1972 (1408 members) to February, 1973 (1615 members). We gratefully note the addition of seven sustaining members during the past year.

## Presentation

The major activity of the Commission for the year was the completion of the discursive report on the Theatre Association of Pennsylvania/Pennsylvania Council on the Arts "Pilot Survey of Performing Arts Facilities in Pennsylvania." Consisting of 32 Acco-bound volumes, each containing one theatre survey and a report of several hundred pages, the Report traces the evolution of USITT's "Road Show Form."

Several dormant projects are listed in the Commission's Annual Report. More raw material for doctoral theses, mayhap? The curious (and/or the desperate) may contact Commission Chairwoman Ann Folke Wells c/o the USITT National Office.

## SECTION ACTIVITIES KEEP ROLLING MERRILY ALONG

### new york

On Thursday, May 8, the New York Section's Committee on Theatre Administration will sponsor a day-long "problem-solving workshop." Representatives from ten community performing arts groups will present problems to a panel of some fifteen resource people, who will attempt to suggest solutions. This workshop, to be held at the American Place Theatre in N.Y.C., will be moderated by Thomas DeGaetani. A box luncheon (\$7.50) will be provided. Send checks, payable to USITT/NY, and/or inquiries, to Mr. DeGaetani at 221 West 82 St., New York, N.Y. 10024 no later than April 30.

### southern california

The Southern California Section will hold its April meeting (Apr. 13-15) in conjunction with the Southern Calif. Educational Theatre Assn (CETA) in San Diego. SCUSITT will furnish panel leaders for a number of informal round-table discussions on technical problems encountered by CETA. Theatre tours and other events will take place in the San Diego area. SCUSITT and any Nor-Cal people at this meeting intend to discuss the possibility of future joint meetings.

SCUSITT's May-June meeting (to be held in early June at Cal. State Univ. at Long Beach) will include an all-day symposium on the use of plastics in the theatre. Participants will include chemical manufacturers, fire and safety people and theatre folk (of course!).

Officers of SCUSITT elected at their January meeting are: President, Will Bellman; V.P. (industry), Ralph Swarens; V.P. (education), Barbara Burnett, Sec'y., Pat Byrne; Treas., John Stockwell

### texas

Texas Section will hold an all-day meeting at the High School for Performing and Visual Arts, Houston. At 9:00 AM, Andrew Gibbs and David Deacon will present, for the students, a 3-hour session on Design and Technical Concepts. A 1:30 PM panel discussion and question session will consider the topic "What Do You Need to Know in Technical Theatre When You Get Out of High School?". The section's membership meeting will be held at 3:30 PM at Robert Howrey Studios. After dinner, all are invited to the High School's production of "The Music Man." No charge for these goodies to any USITT member. (Oh, yes, the date is April 14).

1973 Texas Section Officers: Pres.: Robert W. Wenck; V.P.: Andrew Gibbs; Sec'y.: David Deacon; Treas.: Gordon Bangs.

### new england

New England Section will hold its annual meeting on May 8, during which it will hold elections (nominees: Chairman, Richard R. Chamberlain; Vice Chairman, Charles Clutz; Sec'y./Treas., Marie L. Phillips). "Boston's Bi-Centennial Plans" will also be considered.

### midwest

Midwest Section's May meeting will take the form of a theatre party (date & place to be announced -- contact chairman Gene Wilson for details).

On June 9, the section's last regular meeting will be a combined costume show and tour of the Univ. of Wisconsin at Whitewater.

A pat on the back to Midwest for its support and encouragement of the high school theatre group, Up-Stage.

## northern california

New Section Officers: James R. Earle, Jr., Chairman; Gene Chesley, Vice Chairman; James Wright, Sec'y./Treas.; Michael Ramsaur & Leon Kalimos, Members-at-large; Leonard Auerbach, Ex-Officio Member.

Nor-Cal will hold its April meeting (Apr. 21) at Stanford Univ. in conjunction with its all-day symposium, "Modern Technology and Innovation in Theatre Design." Of special interest will be discussions of developments in modern technology which might be utilized by the designer, and innovative directions which theatre design may take in the future. Environmental design and multimedia will be considered during the program. Speakers will include Henry May, Univ. of Calif. at Berkeley; James Stearns, Calif. Institute of the Arts; and Bob Blackman, American Conservatory Theatre.

The day's events will include demonstrations, displays, a luncheon and an evening performance of Orestes. Nor-Cal's executive committee will hold an open meeting during the late-afternoon social hour. For more info on this eventful program, and on Nor-Cal, contact J.R. Earle, (408) 277-2767.

May 26 is the day, and UC-Davis is the place slated by Nor-Cal for a series of clinics and workshop/displays on theatre technology and design. This all-day meeting will be hosted by Gene Chesley of UC-Davis (contact him for details).

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## International Liaison Notes

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### oistt congress

The third bi-annual congress of OISTT takes place in Avignon, France, July 16-22 on the subject "Light-Sound and the Theatre Space." Emphasis will be on productions which exemplify new uses of theatre spaces and the possibilities of light and sound in such productions. Conference sessions will deal with this subject area in the mornings, with afternoons devoted to work sessions and papers of the OISTT Commissions on Architecture, Scenography, Technical Theatre, Education and Publications. Morning sessions will have simultaneous translation between English and French, and possibly German. For the afternoon meetings, a working knowledge of French or German would be helpful.

If the conference subject is of particular interest to you, and you can support your own travel and local expenses, contact Dr. Joel E. Rubin, Chairman, International Liaison Committee, c/o USITT National Office.

### special requests:

A recent request from colleagues in Hungary deals with curriculum in technical theatre, and asks for typical coursework and curriculum studies in this area. They will appreciate hearing from various theatre departments in this regard. An additional request is for information on large lighting control systems involving 100-200 circuits with programmed memory; also, various stage rigging and movable structure systems would be of interest. Reply directly to:

Budapest Főváros Tanácsa  
Végrehajto Bizottsága  
Szinházainak Műszaki Irodája  
Lenin Kőrút 29-33  
Budapest VII, Hungary

## TALK TO US!!

In an effort to facilitate communication between members and USITT Officers, and to correct several errors in the new Membership Directory (changes were made after the Directory went to press), the following are the names and addresses of USITT Officers and Regional Section Chairmen. The heart of USITT is contact -- "to stimulate, document, and disseminate experiences in the performing arts and their technology." If you have ideas, questions, suggestions, make yourself heard. That's what we're all about.

PRESIDENT

Ned A. Bowman  
Dept. of Theatre Arts  
Univ. of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Richard L. Arnold  
Dept. of Theatre Arts  
Northern Illinois Univ.  
DeKalb, Ill. 60115

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Edward F. Kook  
234 West 44 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

Mert Cramer  
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SECRETARY (until July, 1973)

Robert Teitelbaum  
Dept. of English Literature  
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Swarthmore, Pa. 19081

SECRETARY (after July, 1973)

Thomas Lemons  
14 Orne Street  
Marblehead, Mass. 01945

TREASURER

Ed Peterson, Jr.  
Kliegl Bros.  
32-32 48th Ave.  
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101

- - - -

USITT/Florida Section

Larry Riddle  
Assoc. Prof., Stage Design  
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Tallahassee, Fla. 32306

USITT/Midwest Section

Gene A. Wilson  
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USITT/New England Section

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Marblehead, Mass. 01945

USITT/New York Section

Ron Olson  
Century Strand, Inc.  
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USITT/Northern Calif.

James R. Earle, Jr.  
Dept. of Drama  
San Jose State College  
San Jose, Calif. 95114

USITT/Southern Calif.

Willard F. Bellman  
20314 Haynes St.  
Canoga Park, Calif. 91306

USITT/Texas Section

Robert W. Wenck  
Texas A & M Univ.  
Theatre Arts Bldg. J  
College Station, Tex. 77843

## ... S M O R G A S B O R D ...

\*\* A \$2500 award for a new play by an undergraduate or graduate student will be initiated for the Sixth American College Theatre Festival. The play must be given a full production by an institution entered in the Festival, although it can be a separate entry by the participating institution. Contact ACTF/PLAYWRIGHTS, 1317 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004 for information.

\*\* Southern Methodist University's Theatre Division will offer a month-long colloquium this summer on "Directing for the Theatre Today," beginning June 11. Among the guest directors who will participate are Gerald Freedman and Joseph Chaikin of N.Y., and William Gaskill of London. Fee is \$250. Write to: Theatre Division, SMU, Dallas, Texas 75275.

\*\* In its new "Explorations" program, the Canada Council on the Arts will make grants available to innovators in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Funds will be given for work on Canada's historical and cultural heritage, as well as to projects which explore "new forms of expression, participation, communication and diffusion." Write to The Canada Council, P.O. Box 1047, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8, Canada. (Open only to Canadian citizens.)

\*\* Harvard University Summer School's Institute in Arts Administration will conduct its Annual Management Development Program July 1-27. This intensive program aims to provide participants with skills in management and problem-solving relevant to administering arts organizations and activities. For details & applications write Harvard Summer School Institute in Arts Administration, Dept. AA, 1350 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

\*\* A \$10,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Arts will greatly assist the University Resident Theatre Assn. (URTA) with its annual Unified Nat'l. Auditions project. These auditions permit young theatre aspirants (actors, technicians, administrators) from all over the U.S. to interview and audition for all 33 URTA member theatres at one time.

\*\* Ten of the country's best university & college theatre productions, selected from more than 300, will be performed during the Fifth two-week American College Theatre Festival. Performances will be held at the Eisenhower Theatre, Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington, D.C., beginning April 23.

LATEST ADDITIONS

USITT extends a hearty welcome to the following new members. We hope they will find their association with us a profitable one. (Code numbers and letters in the right-hand margin indicate class of membership and Commission participation.)

- 1 Board of Directors
- 2 Executive Council
- 3 Presentation Commission
- 4 Architecture Commission
- 5 Engineering Commission
- 6 Administration Commission
- 7 Publications Committee
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Christopher J. Boll 82 Topping Circle Williamsburg, Va. 23185	I	Stephen Roland Kops Box 688 Connecticut College New London, Conn. 06320	36-S	Bradley Glen Richart 430 West Adams Macomb, Ill. 61455	S
Jonathan Bromberg 21 Argyle Place Rockville Center, N.Y. 11570	5-S	Norman Litz City of Miami Beach City Hall Miami Beach, Fla. 33139	I	John Malcolm Ricker 2312 Pittock St. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217	3-S
Patricia C. Brophy 825 Romona Road Wilmette, Ill. 60091	I	E. Terry Lorenc 250 West Avenue Brockport, N.Y. 14420	4-I	Holly Sherman 344 West 72 St., #9G New York, N. Y. 10023	45-I
Robert L. Carpenter 306 Hansen Drive Fortune, Calif. 95540	45-S	Johnn Malloy 17 Maple Ct., Park Harbor Calumet City, Ill. 60409	I	Clifford Gregory Smith 339 Rolfe Road DeKalb, Ill. 60115	S
Marica M. Frederick 16892 Mitchell Ave. Los Gatos, Calif. 95303	I	George F. Mayfield 159 Glendale Buffalo Grove, Ill. 60090	I	John C. Stockwell 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, Calif. 91324	I
Kevin L. Graves 600 Clark Lot #32 Emporia, Kansas 66801	4-S	Jonathan R. Miller Rt. 3 Box 80 Durango, Colo. 81301	S	LeRoy L. Stoner #14 Cascade Trl. Pk. RR#1 Bloomington, Ind. 47401	S
Jeffrey S. Guzik 3596 Ingleside Road Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122	S	Off-Off-Broadway Alliance 245 West 52 St. New York, N.Y. 10019	345678-X	Paul J. Sweeney 208 North Walnut St. Crawfordsville, Ind. 47933	S
Dr. William R. James Dept. of Theatre Arts Univ. of Santa Clara Santa Clara, Calif. 95053	3456-I	Michael T. O'Kane 172 Pacific Highway Roseville Sydney, N.S.W., Australia 2069	3-SN	Richard Tenewitz 13 Arrow Drive Livingston, N.J. 07039	5-S
Dr. Raoul Johnson R.R.#1, 704 Crest Ave. Roselle, Ill. 60172	4-I	Opera Company of Boston 172 Newbury Street Boston, Mass. 02116	3456-0	Town & Country Playhouse Attn: David Meltzer FRD#2, Box 310 Pelham, N.H. 03076	36-0
Richard J. Knowles 240 Melwood Ave. Apt. B5 Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213	3-S			Dr. Daryl M. Wedwick Dept. of Speech/Theatre Arts Eastern Montana College Billings, Montana 59101	I

reference \* reading \* research

THEATRE CONSULTANT'S LIST

The compilation and indexing of the theatre consultant's list has finally been completed and the book is on the presses. For those who have not already subscribed to the published listing, the price is \$15.00 for USITT members and \$20.00 for non-members (price includes domestic book postage charges). Send orders, with check or money order, to USITT National Office.

SELECTED 'STILL' PROJECTION APPARATUS

This text, by Mark Lipschutz, provides a listing of the most currently available scenic and effects projectors, plus an annotated bibliography which includes books and articles on scenic projection. Cost: \$5.00. Send checks, payable to USITT, to the National Office.

CULTURE & COMPANY by 'Skip' Reiss

An important book on the financial plight of the arts today. Reviewed in the February issue of TD&T. Now available directly from Arts Management, 408 West 57 Street, N.Y.C. 10019 at a 10% reduction. Make checks for \$7.95 (plus sales tax for N. Y. State residents) payable to Arts Management.

# CALENDAR

- Apr. 13-15.....First Annual Convention, Wisconsin Theatre Cooperative, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
- Apr. 14.....Texas Section's all-day program & meeting, Houston's High School for Perf'g. & Visual Arts
- Apr. 21.....Nor-Cal USITT's Media & Environmental Design Symposium, Stanford University, California
- Apr. 23-  
May 7.....ACTF V Festival, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- May 4,5,6.....Theatre Outreach Program, Superior, Wisconsin; Dr. Donald Swinney, Keynote Speaker
- May 8.....New England Section Annual Meeting
- May 26.....Nor-Cal Section meeting, University of California at Davis
- June 9.....Midwest Section meeting at University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
- June 11 -  
July 9.....SMU Colloquium, "Directing for the Theatre Today"
- June 18-22,  
25-29.....Hologram Workshops, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois
- June 23-24.....Joint New England/NY Section Program, "Administration of Neighborhood Perf'g. Arts Programs," Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, Connecticut
- July 1-27.....Intensive Arts Management Development Program, Harvard University
- July 16-22.....Bi-Annual Conference of OISTT, Avignon, France
- Aug. 5-10.....ACUCM Workshop for Concert Managers, Arizona State University, Tempe
- Aug. 19-22.....ATA Conference, New York City

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## Sustaining Members

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Your Newsletter Editor, Ellen Stodolsky, reminds all Commission and Section Chairmen that the deadline for the next Newsletter is MAY 21. No exceptions, no extensions. You will obey.



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