



NEWS LETTER

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

Volume XII Number 5

November/December 1973

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PLANS UNDER WAY

In case you haven't heard, the 1974 USITT National Conference will hit the Big City (N.Y.C., that is) APRIL 18-21, 1974. Look out, Waldorf-Astoria....



Conference Chairman Robert Benson has indicated that display space and slide projection facilities will be provided at the Conference for theatres interested in preparing presentations of their current work. Regional, community and educational theatres are invited to contact Chairman Benson for details on how to show us what you're up to.



All USITT members, Regional Section Chairmen and National Officers are invited to submit technical papers or proposals for papers to be presented at the Conference. Let Program Chairman Fred Wolff know what's on your mind before Xmas, if possible.



STUDENTS!! A chance for instant stardom can be yours -- if you enter the Student Design Competition to be held at this year's Conference. Prizes will be awarded for Scene Design and Costume Design; entries will be divided into Undergraduate, Graduate and Open Categories. For entry forms and information, get in touch with Jay Keene.



The floor plans are ready and allocations of space are now being made for those organizations wishing to book exhibits at the Conference. Plans, rates and further details available from Terry Wells, Commercial Exhibit Coordinator.

Conference Chairman Robert Benson
c/o Kliegl Bros.
32-32 48th Ave.
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101

Pre-registration Chairman Clyde Nordheimer
Jean Rosenthal Associates
765 Vose Ave.
Orange, N. J. 07050

Program Chairman Frederick M. Wolff
50 Myrtle Ave.
Montclair, N. J. 07042

Student Design Competition Coordinator Jay Keene
USITT Design Competition
c/o Queens College Theatre
Kissena Blvd.
Flushing, N. Y. 11367

Commercial Exhibit Coordinator Terry Wells
c/o Skirpan Lighting
Control Corp.
41-43 24th St.
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101
(212-937-1444)

Peerless Leaders

Several new Board Members, Commissioners and Vice Commissioners have been appointed or elected since the last NEWSLETTER went to press. Congratulations, best wishes for smooth terms of office and Merry Xmas to the following New Leaders:

Randall Davidson: Commissioner of Codes
Terry Wells: Vice Commissioner of Codes
Patricia MacKay: Vice Commissioner of Theatre Architecture

Frederick Vogel and George Heitmann: Vice Commissioners of Theatre Administration
Van Phillips: Vice Chairman of National Liaison Commission

Ed Peterson, Jr.: Chairman of Awards Committee
Peter Sargent: elected by the Board of Directors to fill the Director-at-large post vacated by Charles Williams

George Petterson: elected by the Board of Directors to fill the Director-at-large vacancy created by the resignation of Joel Rubin

REVIEWING THE REGIONS

It is with great pleasure that we announce the official formation of the USITT Allegheny Regional Section, with James Stockman (203 Skyline Drive, California, Pa. 15419) as its Chairman.

In addition, a new Student Chapter has been organized at Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches, Texas (sponsor: Clifford Smith, Dept. of Theatre, Stephen F. Austin Univ., Nacogdoches, Tex. 75961).

The organization of new Sections and Chapters is a strong indication of the health and continuing growth of the Institute, and we anticipate more offspring in the near future. In fact...

...we've been requested to ask all USITT members in the general vicinity of North and South Carolina to contact

Robert S. Ploch
Dept. of Theatre
Converse College
Spartanburg, S. C. 29301

about the possibility of forming a USITT/Carolinas Section. All it takes is 15 warm bodies to create such an organism; surely there are 15 such down Carolinas way. Speak up!!

new york area

It has indeed been an active Fall season in and around N.Y. On Sept. 19, about 70 people attended a presentation on "Sound in the Theatre" given by David Klepper at Montclair State College, N.J. Mr. Klepper is Chairman of the USITT Engineering Commission's Sub-committee on Audio and Acoustics.

On Oct. 16, at the new Circle-in-the-Square Theatre, Mr. Jules Fisher spoke before 150 people attending the Central Opera Service's National Conference. Mr. Fisher described a new projection technique which he and his associates had developed for the touring opera "Tommy."

Two Technical Theatre Short Courses have already been held this season. The first, at Garden City (N.Y.) Adult School on Oct. 20, dealt with built scenery techniques and drew an audience of about 50 high school students and teachers. A second session, covering lighting control systems, instrumentation and lighting design, was held at C.W. Post College on Nov. 17.

N.Y. Area Section hopes to expand its Technical Short Course Program and to publish a syllabus describing the topics covered during each four-hour session.

Following the Section's participation on Nov. 2 and 3 in the Helmut Grosser Master Classes, the final Fall activity, a presentation of USITT's "Theatre Orientation Package," was held on Nov. 14. Leslie Armstrong, Chairwoman, Theatre Architecture Commission and the mastermind of the T.O.P., undoubtedly gave a smashing performance out at Montclair State College.

Praise and thanks to those saints at the N. Y. State Council on the Arts, who have once again awarded a grant to the N. Y. Area Section. The money will be used to carry out projects slated for 1973-74. Proposed projects include: Symposium/Demonstration--Automation in the Theatre; Career Conference in Theatre Technology; Perf'g Arts Centers--The Cluster Approach; Re-institution of the Section's Program Guide; and publication of a Technical Data Sheet. Ambitious, eh?

nor-cal

Another Section on the move. Chairman Randy Earle reports the following activities coming up, so if you're not yet a Nor-Cal member, JOIN UP NOW:

Jan. 19, 10:45 AM: Tour of the Paramount Theatre of the Arts (built 1931, re-stored and re-opened Sept.'73); meet at Stage Door--tour will be conducted by Jack Bethards, Exec. Dir. of the theatre.

1:00 PM: "Plastics & Scenic Technology, 1974," conducted by James Wright and Ivan Hess at Mills College. The session will focus on plastics materials & procedures used in the latest design technology.

Feb. 2: Nor-Cal's Section meeting at Cal. State College, Stanislaus, in Turlock.

In addition to facility tours and a discussion of "Non-Period Production Concepts for Period Plays," there will be an exhibit of student scene designs and an evening performance of "The Threepenny Opera." Reservation forms & directions to Turlock were sent to all Nor-Cal members on Dec. 1. If you didn't get them, contact Randy Earle (Dept. of Drama, San Jose State Univ., San Jose, CA. 95142).

Feb. 22-24: Prof. Ladislav Vychodil, chief designer, Slovak National Theatre, will give a series of Master Classes in scenography at U.C. Santa Barbara. For info. on participating (attendees will be judged by design samples submitted to Prof. Vychodil beforehand), contact Don Childs, Scenographer, Dept. of Dramatic Art, U. of Calif., Santa Barbara, CA. 93106. Deadline for submitting designs, Dec. 22; invitations sent out Jan. 3.

Feb. 23: Joint meeting, So. Cal. and Nor-Cal Sections, to be held in Southern Calif. (details still in focusing stage). Tours of Berkey Colortran, Inc. & Burbank Studios are planned, plus a day of tech. theatre programs and a dinner party. If interested in attending--and a charter flight may be arranged if enough of you are--contact Jim Wright, 6451 Outlook Ave., Oakland, CA. 94605.

Joe Salomone and Barbara Rose, Nor-Cal members, have joined Mike Ramsaur in getting a Products and Services Directory project started. Send manufacturers lists, brochures, product guides and/or directories, comparative lists, samples, catalogues and any other info. to: Joe Salomone, 19 Mar Vista Dr., Monterey, CA. 93940. (Manufacturers -- this includes you, too. Please help get this badly-needed Directory started.)

MORE REGIONAL REVIEWS

NEXT PAGE.....

REVIEWING THE REGIONS (CONT'D)

midwest

ing hold out in Middle America. Upcoming events:

. 6, 1:30 PM: "Theatre Facilities for Dance" a discussion by choreographers on their needs in stage space and its utilization. Place: The Dance Center of Columbia College, 4724 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago.

. 2, 1:30 PM: "Panel: Sources in Theatre"; theatrical supply dealers will discuss sources and costs of new materials. Place: Illinois Theatre Assn. Convention (its First Annual Convention), Peoria, Ill. Contact Bernhard Works, 4-115 Krannert Center, U. of Ill., Urbana, Ill. 61801 for convention details.

-- Illinois Theatre Assn. (ITA) is the state affiliate of ATA; its purpose is to strengthen communication between all local theatre groups in the state. Sub-divisions include Children's Theatre, Creative Dramatics, Secondary School Theatre, Community Theatre, Univ. & College Theatre, and Commercial/Professional Theatre. For ITA membership info. contact Christine Smith, 543 Wellington Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60657.

STAGE, Mid-west Section's high school technical theatre affiliate, will hold its first '73-74 workshop Dec. 8, 1:30 PM, at Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, Chicago 60657. The subject will be Special Effects.

High School Students and teachers interested in technical theatre and wishing to get involved in STAGE's activities should contact Larry Etson, 2350 Lincoln Park West, Chicago 60614.

new england

In cooperation with the Trinity Square Repertory Company of Providence, R.I., the Section will host all day of theatre in the Trinity Company's newly-renovated facilities on Washington St. in downtown Providence. The date is Feb. 16; activities include a 10 AM tour of the facility, followed by discussion; a 2 PM company performance; dinner at the Players Pub; and an 8 PM performance. Cost: \$10.00 (all-inclusive).

In March, a program on "Sound" will be conducted by Edwin Stuart of Theatre Sound of Connecticut. Details will be announced as plans are confirmed.

New England Section reports an overwhelming number of requests for more of its "Mini-Courses," and plans to schedule more of them throughout its region, probably beginning at Worcester State College, Worcester, Mass.

Other USITT Sections might be interested to learn that, although New England Section has no funds of its own, all of its expenses are underwritten by the New England Theatre Conference because the Section constitutes the NETC's Technical Theatre Committee.

florida

After much teeth-gnashing and hair-pulling, Fla. Section has proudly produced its first Newsletter. Cheers for Kam McCormick (1675 N.W. 4th Ave., #211, Boca Raton, Fla. 33432, 305-395-5834), its Editor and the person to whom all pertinent correspondence should be sent. The Newsletter will be published quarterly, with supplemental bulletins as necessary, and will be mailed to all Fla. Section members. It is hoped, though, that anyone in technical theatre in the area will get in touch.

Editor McCormick pleads eloquently for more response from fellow Floridians. Fla. Section counts only 27 members, yet there are 59 commercial and/or community theatre companies, and 26 educational institutions sponsoring theatre activity in the state. Floridians Unite! In the immortal words of Kam McC., "give a hoot...join da institoot." Hear, hear.

Milia Davenport, author of History of Fashion, and Stella Mary Newton, fashion expert from Courtauld Institute of Art, London, will visit the Univ. of South Fla. Feb. 28 - Mar. 3. Fla. Section's International Liaison Commissioner Van Phillips is arranging a seminar featuring these costuming experts some time during their stay. Further info. in future Fla. Section Newsletters.

The Latest Thing
in Theatres

The first facility built in the U.S. for a children's theatre company is slated for completion this coming spring. Under the aegis of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, the new \$4.5 million Children's Theatre and Classroom complex will mark an unprecedented advance in the field of professional theatre for children in this country. The 50-member Children's Theatre Company, founded in 1965, anticipates a marked expansion of its performance and educational capabilities in the new 750-seat proscenium theatre and its complete scene and costume shop facilities.

In addition to the Children's Theatre building, the Minneapolis College of Art and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts will also move into new quarters in the "nest of structures" designed by Japanese architect Kenzo Tange.

A new \$11.8 million University Union and Auditorium, under construction for three years, has been completed at the Illinois State University (Normal, Ill.). The 3457-seat auditorium includes the newest in theatre architecture: tunable reverberative natural acoustics and one of the widest between-the-rows continental seating patterns. Other special goodies include a 73-dimmer, 5-scene preset house board, permanent stage dance floor, 60 working lines, hydraulic apron and complete orchestra shell. The "simple" monophonic sound reinforcement system features adjustable equalization capabilities through a 15-channel mixer located at the rear of the orchestra.

This Wonder of Modern Technology was designed by Evans Associates of Bloomington. Bravo!

COMMISSIONS COGITATE

administration

Commissioner William Crocken (647 Fairway Rd., State College, Pa. 16801) and Vice-Commissioners George Heitmann (Research) and Frederick B. Vogel (Professional Liaison) are attempting to resuscitate USITT's Theatre Administration activities. All those concerned with any of the interest areas listed below are urged to contact Chairman Crocken as soon as possible. The resurrection can't begin until we know who and where our administration people are.

Theatre Administration -- Areas of Interest

1. Managerial Practices
2. Legal Aspects in the Perf'g Arts
3. Audience Development
4. Fund Raising
5. Budgeting & Accounting Practices
6. Marketing Studies & Practices
7. Union Contracts & Their Implications
8. Press, Promotion & Publicity

engineering

In its ongoing and strenuous efforts to increase interest and participation in its activities, the Commission has decided to hold meetings bi-monthly, instead of every month. Upcoming meetings will be held as follows:

- Jan. 9, 6 PM - Metropolitan Opera House
Board Room, NYC
- Mar. 6, 6 PM - ditto
- Apr. 18-21 - during the National Conference,
Waldorf Astoria Hotel, NYC
(time & room to be announced)
- May 29, 6 PM - Met. Board Room, NYC

All USITT members willing to work on Commission Projects are invited to join; if you belong to a Regional Section, contact its Engineering Chairman. If you're outside the established Sections, please contact National Engineering Commissioner Fred Wolff, 50 Myrtle Ave., Montclair, N.J. 07042, indicating your area of interest.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Lawrence Kellerman is Chairman of "A Technical Theatre Information System" project. Tony Courtade of Cortland, N.Y., Jimmie Robinson of Seattle, Wash., and Marijo Toner of Juneau, Alaska have indicated interest in this project. Anyone else out there who's turned on to this big job should contact Mr. Kellerman at Strand Century, Inc., 20 Bushes Lane, E. Paterson, N.J. 07407.

Peder Knudson (CBS-TV Network, 51 W. 52 St., NYC 10019) is now Chairman of the "Stage Floors for Dance" project. Help our poor dancers avoid shin splints by letting Mr. Knudson know of your interest in this long-overdue project.

Two additions to the "Projects Available" list published in the May/June Newsletter are up for grabs: "A System of Dance Tour Lighting" and "The Influence of Theatrical on Architectural Lighting." Come and get 'em!

A PLEA FOR A-D-V-E-R-T-I-S-E-R-S

Several Engineering Commission papers are still waiting to be published in TD&T due to space limitations. Space is limited because we lack enough advertisers to cover the cost of an expanded journal.

USITT's members include a great many students who will soon be Out There specifying, buying and using all sorts of theatrical materials and equipment. The rest of our members are doing those things right now. What better way to call a product or service to their attention than in their own journal?

Commissioner Wolff also urges all USITT'ers to try to bring in new advertisers. It's in all of our interests to help the journal grow.

p a t e (PERFORMING ARTS TRAINING AND EDUCATION)

PATE (Chairman: Randy Earle, Dept. of Drama, San Jose State Univ., San Jose, CA. 95192) is one of USITT's most active and dynamic Commissions. Reading its Progress Report is an inspiration:

(1) Minimum Standards. This project, designed to establish badly-needed criteria for theatre design and technology curricula at the Bachelor's level, is running smoothly along. Sub-categories under consideration are standards at the BFA level and also extracurricular and non-traditional training programs.

(2) Institutional Support. Concerned with obtaining recommendations regarding the amount of institutional support needed to implement the above-mentioned Minimum Standards, this PATE pet promises to be the first major accomplishment of the Commission.

(3) Secondary Education Tech. Theatre Training. This project will also explore the place of theatre arts in grades K-12 in association with the Secondary School Theatre Assn. division of ATA. Excelsior! Theatre is as vital to education as the Three R's (and, perhaps, more so).

(4) Standardization of Tech. Theatre Graphic Symbols and Terminology. Everyone talks about it, nobody does anything about it. Not the weather -- the project. There's a crying need for this sort of standardization, but Project Co-Chairmen Paul Camp and Don Middleton CAN'T GET ANY INPUT from USITT members. Please, please, please send information to: Mr. Paul Camp, Dept. of Drama, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA. 30601.

Continued from the last NEWSLETTER... the latest new members. Even more of you have joined since then, but you'll have to wait to see your names in print 'til the Jan./Feb. issue. Welcome to USITT. (Code numbers and letters in right-hand margin indicate class of membership and Commission participation.

I Individual
S Student
O Organization
U Sustaining
X Exchange
V Special
H Honorary
N Non-voting

1 Board of Directors
2 Executive Council
3 Presentation Commission
4 Architecture Commission
5 Engineering Commission
6 Administration Commission
7 Publications Committee
8 Public Relations

Don Henschel Midwestern Univ. Theatre 3400 Taft Wichita Falls, Tex. 76308	3-I	Fredric S. Meyers 5623 Botkins Rd. Dayton, Ohio 45424	I	David F. Segal 26 E. 10th St. New York, N.Y. 10003	3-I
Richard F. Hicks 130 Lemora Drive Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401	6-S	Jonathan M. Middents 2060 Continental Ave. Tallahassee, Fla. 32304	3-S	Peter Sevaly 5155 O'Sullivan Drive Los Angeles, Calif. 90032	I
Stephen G. Hild 614 Williams Rd. Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001	I	Bro. James Miller, C.S.C. Kings College Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702	4-S	Owen Smith Dept. of Drama Calif. State University 18111 Nordoff St. Northridge, Calif.	I
Fred R. Holmertz 1405 Bass Ave. Columbia, Mo. 65201	I	Donald L. Nathan 1820½ 11th Ave. Greeley, Colo. 80631	3-S	Hank Sparks 1104 B Arrowhead Drive Collinsville, Ill. 62234	I
Charles E. Howard Jr. 35 Payne Place Normal, Ill. 61761	I	George O'Grady 4959 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60632	5-I	Paul Spika 5823 Giddings Hinsdale, Ill. 60521	S
Pete Howard Imero Fiorentino Assoc. 10 West 66 St. New York, N.Y. 10023	5-I	Gilbert Paige Kings College, Box 3284 Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702	5-S	William R. Stark 142 W. 8th Street Oswego, N.Y. 13126	4-I
Dennis Howes 1430 Rosalia Ave. San Jose, Calif. 95130	35-S	Paul E. Palmer c/o The Williams Center 325 S. Boston Tulsa, Okla. 74119	5-S	Philip James Stepek RR 5, Country Estates #21 Carbondale, Ill. 62901	S
Barry W. Klemm 133 Pierce W. Lafayette, Ind. 47906	S	Paul C. Pavis Box 39Z N.C. School of the Arts Winston-Salem, N.C. 27107	4-S	Daniel P. Sullivan Rochester Institute of Tech. One Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, N.Y. 14623	O
John G. Krubski 409-49 North Broadway Yonkers, N.Y. 10701	35-I	Charles L. Phillipp 6151 McPherson Ave. St. Louis, Mo. 63112	6-I	Ann K. Vaessen 419 S. Johnson Iowa City, Iowa 52240	S
Richard W. Lehmann 95 Christopher St., Apt. 5N New York, N.Y. 10014	6-I	Sharon Pinsley 609 S. 2nd St. Philadelphia, Pa. 19147	3-S	Maureen E. Whittenmore 220 Elm Street Carpinteria, Calif. 93013	3-S
A. Brian Liddicoat 2-C Denlar Drive Chester, Conn. 06412	3-I	Edwin J. Placzkowski 1802 Sixth Ave. Watervliet, N.Y. 12189	I	Sheldon R. Wilhelm RR #1, Box 126 Parker, Colo. 80184	3-S
Lawrence J. Luchtel 131 N. Parkway Columbus, Nebr. 68601	6-S	Joseph Psuik III 6920 S. Bannock, Apt. #2 Littleton, Colo. 80120	I	Wolf Trap Farm Park National Capital Parks 1551 Trap Road Vienna, Va. 22180	345678-0
G. Patrick McCreary P.O. Box 333 Edison, N.J. 08817	4-I	Alan B. Reed 3411 Woodhead Drive Northbrook, Ill. 60062	57-I	Wright State University Dr. Abe J. Bassett, Chmn., Dept. of Theatre Dayton, Ohio 45431	345678-0
Donald S. McCullough 1405 University Ave. Grand Forks, N. Dak. 58201	S	Barbara Rose 5411 Club Drive San Jose, Calif. 95127	S		
Paul K. McCullough 1405 University Ave. Grand Forks, N. Dak. 58201	S	Richard G. Rudolph 109 14th Avenue Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579	58-S		
Mike McDonald 3068 N. Frederick Milwaukee, Wisc. 53211	I	E. F. Schulte Box 6306, Station B Nashville, Tenn. 37235	I		
James P. McHugh 79 Ridge Road Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530	34-I	David L. Sealey 721 E. Market Iowa City, Iowa 52242	5-I		

Dr. Walter H. Walters, past President of USITT and currently Dean of the College of Arts and Architecture at the Penn State University, was elected to a one-year term as Chairman of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans at the group's annual meeting held Oct. 18-20 in Atlanta. Membership in the Council is limited to those who administer two or more fine arts divisions.

J U S T B R I E F L Y

* Ann Hill, currently Vice President for Administration, is ATA's new President-elect. Mrs. Hill, and all other newly-elected ATA National Officers, will take office January 1, 1974.

* To coincide with its co-sponsoring a residency (with the Brooklyn Academy of Music) of England's Royal Shakespeare Company, the Brooklyn (N.Y.) College School of Performing Arts will hold a three-day international conference, "Shakespeare '74," from January 10-12. Three all-day sessions on the campus and at the Manhattan Graduate Center of the City Univ. of N.Y. will feature a dozen panels, two special luncheons and other activities, including perf's by the Royal Shakespeare Company. For Delegate Application forms for the Conference, contact Prof. Stephen Langley, Dir., SHAKESPEARE '74, Bklyn. College Perf'g Arts Center, Campus Rd. & Hillel Pl., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210; 212-780-5291 or 780-5476,77.

* USITT Director-at-Large Jo Mielziner has selected Univ. of Utah student Byron Olson to study in the Mielziner NYC studio for the 1973-74 academic year. Mr. Mielziner, Adjunct Professor of Theatre at the University, annually visits its campus to evaluate the work of design students and choose one to serve as his apprentice.

* The American Theatre Student League, which recently won recognition as an official division of ATA, is attempting to set up Campus Chapters. For info and a copy of the ATSC Campus Chapter Code, write: Betty Lou Moore, Theatre Dept., The Univ. of Texas, Austin, Tex. 78712.

* Congress has voted a total of \$597 million for the National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities over the next three years and President Nixon has signed the bill. For the current year, \$145 million has been allocated; for fiscal 1975, \$200 million; fiscal 1976, a ceiling figure of \$252 million.

* William Kent III, Chairman of the California Arts Commission, has joyfully reported that Governor Reagan signed Senate Bill 121 into law, providing \$1.025 million for the Commission's budget for fiscal 1973-74. Arts legislation has never been introduced in the state prior to this year, so this is truly a milestone.

* The Center for Street Theater, founded at the University of Hartford in 1971, has recently received a grant from the NEA to establish a collection of international street theatre materials. Future plans include the publication of a directory of street theatre groups. All street theatre companies are invited to contact Director Patricia Reynolds at The Center for Street Theater, Univ. of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

* Since its inception 15 months ago, Opportunity Resources for the Performing Arts (ORPA) has filled more than 60 managerial and technical positions in various arts organizations around the country. This nonprofit placement service is designed to provide administrative, business and technical personnel to the more than 7500 nonprofit performing and related arts organizations in the U.S. Those interested in hiring or being hired should contact ORPA's Executive Director, Gary Fifield, at 165 West 46 St., NYC 10036; 212-575-1688.

more

....and more

* In the first of a series of projects designed to present work of N. Y. contemporary artists to state residents, the Creative Artists Public Service Program (CAPS) is launching a cooperative program with N.Y.S. libraries, in which six books and a record created by CAPS-funded artists are being made available to 201 libraries across the state.

* Prior to opening the first season of the N.Y. Shakespeare Festival at Lincoln Center, producer Joseph Papp is making major renovations in the Center's Vivian Beaumont Theater. A large steel canopy is being constructed over the stage, designed to yield a more powerful focal point for stage action, and also to serve as a lighting grid and acoustical baffle. The stage itself is being modified to a regular thrust, and the first four rows of seats have been removed on each side, replaced by cushioned benches which may serve as discount seating for students. Modifications outside the theatre and in the entranceway are also being made.

* In April 1973 the Canada Council of the Arts established a Touring Office designed to promote the interests of Canadian performing artists and companies. The activities of the Office include booking and touring coordination for professional Canadian artists in Canada and abroad; maintenance of a touring information service; helping companies and communities with promotion, and providing limited subsidies to touring Canadian companies.

The Comédie Française, the great national theatre of France, will tour Canada (six cities for six weeks) beginning Feb. 1974 under the Touring Office's auspices.

* The Assn. of College and University Concert Managers (ACUCM) will hold its 17th Annual Conference at the N.Y. Hilton Hotel, NYC, Dec. 16-19. On Dec. 15, ACUCM will sponsor a one-day casebook seminar on Public Events Management. The Conference itself will focus on artist residencies, arts councils, funding and goals for the arts. For more info, contact Miriam Boegel, Asst. Dir., ACUCM, P.O. Box 2137, Madison, Wisc. 53701; 608-262-0004.

* Directors of the University Resident Theatre Assn. (URTA, a division of ATA) hired more than 20 percent of the 1000 new theatre hopefuls who participated in the 1973 National Unified Auditions. The three-year old auditions project is designed to bring together the directors of the 37 professionally-oriented university theatre programs with the best of the country's apprentice actors, technicians and administrators.

* Seattle's Mayor Uhlman and its City Council voted to abolish the five percent admission tax on performances by nonprofit organizations, and on scientific and artistic exhibitions. This welcome action should bring an additional \$100,000 to the city's arts organizations.

* The first annual University of Michigan Invitational Festival of Experimental Theatre will be held in Ann Arbor Feb. 22-24. Funded by grants and national in scope, the three-day event will include experimental theatre, mime, music, dance theatre, collages, revues, unperformed and unpublished student-written plays, and innovative approaches to the production of established scripts. Inquiries about application procedures should go to: Donald M. Boros, Experimental Theatre Festival, Mendelssohn Theatre, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

Your humble NEWSLETTER Editor, Ellen Stodolsky, wishes everyone out there a Happy and a Healthy (maybe even Wealthy?) New Year; Merry Xmas, where it applies, and Happy Chanukah to the rest. (Atheists, take your pick.)

CALENDAR

- Dec. 16-19.....ACUCM Annual Conference,
N. Y. Hilton Hotel, NYC
- Jan. 6.....Midwest Section's program
"Theatre Facilities for Dance,"
Dance Ctr. of Columbia College
- Jan. 9.....USITT Nat'l Engineering Com-
mission meeting, Met. Opera
Board Room, NYC
- Jan. 19.....Nor-Cal Section's Paramount
Theatre Tour & "Plastics &
Scenic Technology 1974" pro-
gram, Mills College
- Feb. 2.....Nor-Cal's Section meeting and
seminar on "Non-Period Produc-
tion Concepts for Period Plays,"
Cal. State College, Stanislaus
- Feb. 2.....Midwest Section's "Panel: Sources
in Theatre," Ill. Theatre Assn.
Convention, Peoria, Illinois
- Feb. 16.....New England Section all-day pro-
gram, Trinity Square Repertory
Theatre, Providence, R. I.
- Feb. 23.....Nor. and So. Cal. joint meeting
- Feb. 22-24.....Ladislav Vychodil Master Classes,
U.C. Santa Barbara
- Feb. 22-24.....Univ. of Michigan's Invitational
Festival of Experimental Theatre
- Feb. 28-Mar. 3.....Florida Section's costuming seminar
- APRIL 18-21.....USITT's 14th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NYC

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

A very Merry and a Happy from all of us at USITT goes out to the following special friends, without whose help there would be no NEWSLETTER (no wisecracks on that, please):

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Kliegl Brothers Lighting Company
Little Stage Lighting Company
The Macton Corporation
Major Corporation
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