

# U.S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC. 1501 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

## NEWSLETTER

#### Volume XVII Number 2

March/April 1977

"At USITT, we don't let it happen, we make it happen".

Edward F. Kook, President, USITT

# CAPITOL'77 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MAKES IT "HAPPEN"... A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Undoubtedly, when the final tabulation on CAPITOL '77 is in, a new record for USITT Conference attendance will be established.

Over 500 attendees were expected and over 500 came to Washington, D.C., to hear renowned guest speakers from across the nation; to share in the presentation of awards to national dignitaries who have made outstanding contributions to the Theatre; to tour the cultural facilities of our Nation's Capitol; to participate in the in-depth programs and presentations of the USITT Commissions and to have an opportunity to see the new products, lighting and sound systems on display by our commercial exhibitors.

That the USITT exists to broaden understanding and to increase knowledge of all the practical considerations involved in housing and presenting the performing arts; to research all the factors that influence planning, design, administration, production and equipment for theatres, auditoriums and art centers, the 1977 Conference Committee chaired by Charles Vaughan III, is to be commended for keeping the membership aware of this research, this "existence". With their exciting 1977 CAPITOL '77 THEY MADE IT HAPPEN!

#### **PROGRAMS**

At 8:00 am Thursday, March 17th (and there was a bit o'the wearin' of the green) members left the Loews L'enfant Plaza by bus for a tour of the Kennedy Center, to return in time for a buffet luncheon on the warm, sundrenched promenade of the hotel's south corridor. The Conference Committee could not have ordered better weather. It was nearly 70°. President Kook was overheard (it's rumored) asking Chuck Vaughan to "get me a direct line to the 'man upstairs' too, will yuh"? so that he too could be a "perfect weather orderer".

Major sessions of the day included programs of the EDUCATION COMMISSION: "CAREER EDUCATION IN THEATRE" chaired by Lee Watson; CODES: "TOXIC AND SAFETY STANDARDS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS" coordinated by Codes Commissioner Randy Davidson; ENGINEERING: "METRICATION FOR THE THEATRE: WHO, WHAT AND WHEN" chaired by Larry Riddle, Electro Controls; and a Mini Session by the COSTUMING COMMISSION: "RECYCLING VINTAGE APPAREL" moderated by Sylvia Hillyard, Costume Designer, University of New Orleans.

Throughout the day meetings were held by the Technical Information Commission, the Education and Administration Commissions, and the International Liaison Commission. The day ended with a production of Istan Orkeny's "CATS-PLAY" performed at the Arena-Kreeger Theatre, and a tour of the Arena Stage.

In the Monet Suites I and II, Renoir Suite and Degas Salon, members of the Scenography, Education, Engineering and Administration Commissions held 7:45 am meetings on Friday, March 18th, before departing at 8:45 am for a tour of Ford's Theatre. At 12:30 pm, meetings of the Costume, Theatre Architecture, Technical Information and Codes Commissions were held.

COST ANALYSIS AND THE ARTS ADMINISTRATOR IN THEATRE
CONSTRUCTION—HOW DO ADMINISTRATORS AND ARCHITECTS WORK TOGETHER WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE PROGRAM kicked off the
first major session of the Theatre Administration Commission, coordinated by Commissioner Don Shulman, with
Herb Schmoll participating. Other major sessions of the
day included WHY I DESIGN THE WAY I DO, a presentation of
the Costuming Commission, moderated by Commissioner
Don Stowell, with USA Costume Associates Alvin Colt,
Jane Greenwood, Carrie Robbins; Marge Slayman, USA
Costume Associate, Arena Stage; and Cletus Anderson, Carnegie-Mellon University, participating; FORMS, FUNCTIONS,
FUNDS: CRITIQUE OF THEATRE ARCHITECTURE, a presentation
of the Theatre Architecture Commission with panel members
David Hays, The O'Neill Theatre Center; Harry Weese,
Harry Weese and Associates/Architects; Zelda Fichandler,
Arena Stage and John von Szeliski of William Blurock and
Partners/Architects, who coordinated the program.

Two mini sessions of the Engineering Commission, <a href="mailto:LASER-HOLOGRAPHY WORKSHOP">LASER-HOLOGRAPHY WORKSHOP</a>, presented by Robert Howell generated much interest and excitement.

At the General Membership Meeting President Kook spoke of what he had learned from his experiences as President of the Institute during his term of office. He pointed out that USITT's serious purposes imposed responsibilities and that we would hold steadfast to the

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integrity of our pursuits and purposes. He spoke of personal visits to the Regional Sections to become familiar first-hand with the membership's views; an increasing need for greater membership input into the work of the Commissions; improving our Journal Theatre Design and Technology, and appointing a Development Commission for this task. The text of President Kook's address will be published in Theatre Design and Technology.

A New Product Session coordinated by Allan M. Bailey, Technical Information Commissioner ended the Friday proceedings.

Major sessions on Saturday, March 19th, included a presentation of the  $\underline{\text{EDUCATION COMMISSION}}$ : P.A.C.E. TASKFORCE", Coordinated by Commissioner John Bracewell; Chairman - Tony Distler, President of the American Theatre Association, with Anna May Hughs, President-elect, SSTA; William Waack, SSTA; Ted Jones, USITT Education Commission, Tom Beagle, President, SSTA; and Ron Longstreth, International Thespian Society. "WHO SHOULD DE-SIGN YOUR THEATRE?" was a presentation of the THEATRE ARCHITECTURE COMMISSION, moderated by Commission Peter H. Frink, Frink & Beuchat/Architects, with William H. Allison, Pennsylvania State University; Leonard Auerbach, State University of New York-Stony-brook; Arthur L. Housman, University of North Carolina; and David Weiss, University of Virginia. "TRAINING AND STANDARDS OF UNION DESIGNERS" moderated by Peggy Clark, with Scenic Designers: Charles Elson; Ben Edwards, Presi-Local 829, Costume Designers: Fred Voeldent, U.S.A. pel; Carrie Robbins; Lighting Designers: John Gleason and Arden Fingerhut participating..... was a presentation of the USITT SCENOGRAPHY COMMISSION.

Mini sessions throughout the day included the EN-GINEERING COMMISSION'S: "A TECHNICAL INFORMATION FILING SYSTEM" presented by Jay O. Glerum, Marquette University; THEATRE ADMINISTRATION'S: "GRANTMANSHIP WORKSHOP" presented by Don Shulman; and LIAISON WITH THE ARTIST COMMISSION'S: "WHAT THE ARTIST ASKS AND RECEIVES FROM THE TECHNICIAN", presented by Playwright/Director Robert Wilson, Lee Watson, Chairman.

Members left the hotel at 1:45 pm for a tour of the Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts, returning in time for the 6:30 pm Cocktail Party and Banquet.

The Banquet was a momentous occasion with the presentation of awards and the acceptance speeches of those who received them. The speeches of Cyril Harris, Zelda Fichandler, Roger L. Stevens and Robert Wilson were particularly rewarding in that the USITT membership present at the banquet shared a common experience listening to, and applauding the contributions of these giants of the theatre.

NOTE: IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP WOULD SEE THE BRITISH DESIGN EXHIBIT WHICH INCLUDED GOLD MEDAL WINNERS FROM THE PRAGUE QUADRIENALE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE USITT INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMISSION AND THE FRIENDS OF THE KENNEDY CENTER.

UNFORTUNATELY, DAMAGE TO THIS EXHIBITION IN TRANSPORT, PREVENTED IT FROM BEING SHOWN.

Theatre Design '77, The Student Design Competition, and the Federal Theatre Project were on display daily. ATA Placement Service was also open daily to USITT and ATA members.

#### **USITT AWARDS 1977**

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDERS AWARD 1977 PRESENTED TO

DONALD H. SWINNEY

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS VALUABLE SERVICES TO USITT WHOSE DEDICATION AS WORKER, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, OFFICER, PRESIDENT HAS BEEN VITAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FROM ITS VERY BEGINNING

USITT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH, 1977

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY USITT AWARD 1977 PRESENTED TO

ROBERT S. WILSON
PLAYWRIGHT AND DIRECTOR

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS THEATRICAL INNOVATIONS REVEALING NEW VISUAL PERCEPTION IN THE USE OF TIME, SPACE, AND MOVEMENT IN THE THEATRE

USITT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH, 1977

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY USITT AWARD 1977 PRESENTED TO

CYRIL MANTON HARRIS

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AS AUTHOR, EDUCATOR, PHYSICIST, AND ACOUSTICAL ENGINEER IN ACOUSTICAL DESIGN FOR PERFORMING ARTS FACILITIES IN AMERICA

USITT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH, 1977

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY USITT AWARD 1977 PRESENTED TO

ZELDA FICHANDLER

IN RECOGNITION OF HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AS CO-FOUNDER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR OF THE ARENA STAGE WASHINGTON, D.C.
AND HER ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SUCCESS AND INFLUENCE OF THIS OUTSTANDING THEATRE INSTITUTION

USITT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH, 1977

#### Continued next page

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY USITT AWARD 1977 PRESENTED TO

ROGER L. STEVENS

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS INSPIRED LEADERSHIP, PRODUCER, ENTREPRENEUR AND CREATIVE FORCE IN THE AMERICAN THEATRE

USITT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH, 1977

#### **FELLOWS**

EDWARD F. KOOK

WALTER H. WALTERS GARY W. GAISER NED A. BOWMAN DONALD H. SWINNEY EDWARD PETERSON, JR.

JOEL E. RUBIN

HAROLD BURRIS-MEYER

BERNARD A. GROSSMAN

FREDERICK M. WOLFF

RUDOLPH KUNTNER RICHARD L. ARNOLD

C. RAY SMITH

ARTHUR J. BENLINE

THOMAS S. WATSON

HANS SONDHEIMER

#### PUBLICATIONS AWARDS

JARKA BURIAN

For best article in the 1976 issues of Theatre Design and Technology The Committee on Publications wishes again to acknowledge the impressive contribution of Jarka Burian to the USITT. His article entitled "A Scenographer's Work: Josef Svoboda's Designs, 1971-1975," presents in monumental proportions for this period the work of this outstanding scenographer. As such it provides a fitting continuation of Professor Burian's treatment of Svoboda's earlier work.

RICHARD D. THOMPSON TONY COURTADE FRED. M. WOLFF

From time to time the Committee on Publications gives special recognition for work well done. Such is the case in the consistent contributions of the Associate Editors Richard D. Thompson, Tony Courtade and Fred. M. Wolff to the USITT Journal Theatre Design and Technology, in conducting the Departments, New Products, Book Reviews, and Technical Reports, respectively. They have not only revealed a consistently high quality of work but in their contributions in issue-after-issue they are accumulating an impressive resource of the theatre for our membership.

#### RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION: The Board of Directors of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. acknowledges with thanks the dedicated efforts of the 1977 USITT Annual Conference Committee chaired by Charles Vaughan III. The contribution of your committee in the myriad of conference details with the aid of the USITT Commissions in programming are recognized essentials in making CAPITOL '77 an outstanding event of the year.

> The Board of Directors of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology acknowledges your contribution with deepest gratitude.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Directors of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. wishes to recognize the outstanding service provided by Edward F. Kook during his two terms as President of the Institute. Your guidance of the Institute through its period of economic difficulty was a phenomenal task. In addition, your energetic efforts, dynamic leadership and personal encouragement have given the Institute new vitality and continued productivity.

> The Board of Directors of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology acknowledges your contributions with deepest gratitude.

#### SPECIAL AWARDS

MARGARET U. EZEKIEL

In recognition of her years of contributions as Commissioner of Presentation and Chairman of Liaison with the Artist for USITT.

RUDOLPH KUNTNER

In recognition of his contributions to USITT and his long and dedicated career of creative service to performing arts technology in America.

#### TIME & PLACE

USITT ANNUAL CONFERENCE/1978 PHOENIX, ARIZONA CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN Martin Abramson 2339 East Pebble Beach Tempe, Arizona 85282

USITT ANNUAL CONFERENCE/1979 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON CONFERENCE HOST USITT Pacific Northwest Section Seattle, Washington

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#### 1977 COMMITTEE

CHARLES VAUGHAN General Chairman Designer University of Maryland

RONALD F. CUFFE Director, Publicity and Promotion Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts

SHARON M. DAVIS Director. Publicity and Promotion American Theatre Association

FRANK A, FLORENTINE Technical Director, Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts

JEFFREY J. GRANDEL Designer/Technical Director Gallaudet College Washington, D.C.

JOHN J. GALLAGHER Technical Director, Publick Playhouse Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

RALPH A. HOFFMAN Chief, Division of Performing Arts Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts

E. O. SKIP LARSON Site Manager, Ford's Theatre Washington, D.C.

JIM PEARSON Technical Director Montgomery Players, Inc. Montgomery County, Maryland

BRADLEY W. SABELLI Designer/Technical Director The George Washington University Washington, D.C.

ROBERT SWASEY Costume Designer Gallaudet College Washington, D.C.

HERBERT VOSS Designer/Technical Director The American University Washington, D.C.

KATHY ZUKASKY Assistant Theatre Technician University of Maryland College Park, Maryland

THANKS TO THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES AND UP FRONT AT THE REGISTRATION DESK AND COUNTER. A BIG THANKS TO THE "VAUGHAN Elfins".

# **EXHIBITORS**

ADB, INC.

PETER ALBRECHT CORPORATION AMERICAN SCENIC COMPANY, INC. AMERICAN STAGE LIGHTING CO., INC. AUDIOTRONICS, INC. AUTOMATIC DEVICES COMPANY BARBIZON ELECTRIC BERKEY COLORTRAN, INC. CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS CITY LIGHTS THEATRICAL J. R. CLANCY COMPANY, INC. DAVID CLARK COMPANY, INC. CLEAR COM THOMAS Y. CROWELL DECOR ELECTRONICS CORPORATION DIMATRONICS DLS PRODUCTIONS EAVES COSTUME COMPANY ELECTRO CONTROLS, INC. ELECTRONICS DIVERSIFIED, INC. H & H SPECIALTIES HUB ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. I.A.T.S.E. THE JOYCE CRIDLAND COMPANY KLIEGL BROTHERS LIGHTING COMPANY MAJOR LIGHTING CORPORATION MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY MUTUAL HARDWARE CORPORATION NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS OLESEN COMPANY W. E. PALMER COMPANY, INC. ROCTRONICS ROSCO LABORATORIES, INC. SCENOGRAPHIC IMPORTS SKIRPAN LIGHTING CONTROL CORP. GEORGE R. SNELL ASSOCIATES, INC. SCR DIGITROL CONTROL CORP. STRAND CENTURY INC. THEATRE SYSTEMS, INC.

THEATRE TECHNIQUES, INC.

SUPPLY CORP.

TIMES SQUARE THEATRICAL AND STUDIO

UNION CONNECTOR COMPANY, INC.



#### =ADMINISTRATION= ARCHITECTURE ARTISTIC LIAISON COSTUMING EDUCATION

# ENGINEERING SAFETY SCENOGRAPHY TECHNICAL INFORMATION

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS

#### NAT'L. AND INT'L. LIAISON

#### SAFETY CODES

Dr. Randall W.A. Davidson, Commissioner

#### Terry Wells, Vice Commissioner

To the members of the Commission, members of the National Theatre Safety Project Task Force, members at large of USITT, and readers of the Newsletter who are allied to USITT and the Commission:

Once again, Commissioner Davidson is requesting you to contact him. You may and are encouraged to send voice cassettes, letters, all data that might refer to Codes; safety of products, consumer reports, and even video cassettes (as one member promised); newspaper articles of reports of accidents, job related illnesses, catastrophes, OSHA and NIOSH reports; insurance statistics, state and local laws that might refer to Entertainment, procedures, deaths, equipment information referring to safety, materials, toxic substances, areas of design and construction safety, faulty buildings, fire retardants, noise areas, electrical grounding violations or new procedures, liability suits, corruption in building areas, etc., all these are applicable to the work of the Commission, and are vital to the continuous updating of information for the Codes and Safety Standards. COMMUNICATE, PLEASE, FOR ALL OUR SAKES.

YOU ARE ENTREATED TO WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSPERSON about your concerns and about the work of the Commission in trying to develop procedures and standards for the Entertainment Industry (a la Theatre, Dance, etc.,); TO WRITE TO OSHA, NIOSH, EPA, the Department of Commerce (Fire Prevention Administration), sub-committees on Health and Welfare, State Agencies, County Health Departments, offices and research laboratories of separate corporations and businesses which deal in areas of concern to our Industry. There is no area too sacred to reach out to in order to obtain the information and the accurate, up-to-date data that we need in order to safeguard our health and the safety of our operations. We are in continuous contact with agencies all over the country, and they give valuable information which is immediate in its application to our work.

We are growing more and more concerned about the quality of inspections that are occuring in the Entertainment Industry. Articles in newspapers, journals,

magazines, conversations with insurance underwriters, government personnel, hygiene personnel, firechiefs, OSHA personnel, welders, iron workers, etc., indicate the quality of construction has gone down and that public assembly structures are full of defects. We all are defensive. This opinion seems to reflect our inspections as well. Design and Construction: Perhaps we had better take a long, hard, candid, objective look at what we are building, designing, using, etc. Now is the time not to hesitate in looking at your building, your equipment, your tools, your practices, programs, procedures in Health and Safety.

We are constantly being given the opportunity to clean and set our own house in order. Veritably, a million opportunities. To what? Save our own lives, reduce our own accidents, total out our own job related illnesses, better our economic standings through less down time, etc. Where is our concern for the volunteer, amateur, child professional, patrons, audiences? WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR CONCERN? What about your insurance rates, workman's compensation, hazard insurance, liability for yourself, your facility?

Do you have regular fire inspections, fire drills? Is your fire curtain, if you use one, operable? Do you use it? Do you check all working parts? Does it truly seal? It is a FIRE DOOR. If the Fire Department does not take care of this, do you call them, check on them, check it yourself, have qualified personnel check? Verify its operation. Our experience has indicated that fire doors sometimes rust open and the fuses become useless. If that has happened once, THAT IS TOO OFTEN. Check fusible links, and cut lines. Inspect sprinklers? Are they pressure checked? If so, when ... AND WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME? Keep a record of all these in a verifiable log book (keep two) and record all inspections and conditions ... who did the job ... who inspected ... WHEN ... what did they find ... what was done?

Orderly fire drills? Motivated and prepared? Enforced regulations are lacking in many institutions ... usually more show than enforcement. Statistics in Public Buildings are atrocious. There is a grave need for regular/orderly fire drills, inspections, procedures, use of extinguishers. What type of extinguishers? Checked? Assignments to monitor fire drills are in order in business or in academia. Solid reasons give the employee and boss statistical information, etc. Include pertinent information. Procedures gone over in the field, on the job, are the best. Hands-on procedures with ex-

## SAFETY CODES Cont'd. from pg.

planations are excellent. Do this with extinguishers, and give each person written material too. Which to use, why, how, and in the situations you believe will occur. Why such emphasis upon procedure and care? Insurance rates and premiums are rising. Liability suits about everything are happening and with large awards. Responsibility factors and situations are being enlarged case by case. Tax money, patrons, money donations, lives, suffering and pain, disability problems, deaths, all relate to WHY'S.

Obviously, a careful check of each tool and piece of equipment, each piece of hemp and wire rope, nuts and bolts, wire clips, pulleys, sheaves, etc., is required. All need regular preventive maintenance, especially if your schedules are filled. Time must be taken for these tasks and they must be logged. Leave nothing to chance. Leave nothing to outsiders. Use only professional aid and assure yourself of qualifications.

Flame retardants last just so long -- a maximum time limit, and they must be checked. Annual checks and recording of that time is important. Funds must be handled so that replacements can be made. Do you retard stock or lumber, props, costumes, etc.? Do you know all about the material you are using? What are the toxic qualities? A record should be kept for insurance purposes.

### TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT OF 1977

Get a copy of this act from your Congressperson, or from the Government Printing Office. Look for annotated copies from other sources. Check with local Evironmental Protection Agencies and Health Offices. Begin a thorough check of the toxic substances you might have in your establishment and record them. Remember, there are over 19,000 different ones under the trade names of 25,000 titles. Since the 1975 list over 5000 new ones have been added, so the task is tedious. The list is long and continues to grow ... insecticides, perhaps Shell strips, sprays, paints, lead, asbestos fiber compounds, medicines, solvents, flux, plastic related material, cleaning fluids, ketones, acetone, and we can also add dust and hemp fibers. We must isolate these and help with the labeling of them. If there are no warnings on containers of packages, as local Health officials, contact NIOSH, EPA, pharmacists, chemists, toxologists, doctors, etc., and get accurate information. Check it and have it double checked.

What research has been telling us is that for years, we have been building these into our technology, into our lives, food, systems, workday techniques, and there is a threshhold of tolerance. We do not know what will trigger some of the effects after it has allowed a time to nurture ... perhaps strain, stress, change of blood sugar, exposure to a new set of chemicals, reduction of brain functions, paralysis, respiratory problems, death. Vital functions of the body thus are placed in jeopardy. We can absorb these toxins through the skin, breathe them, gain them by scratches or wounds. We have for the most part super-saturated our systems with them ... all of us, whether we know about it or not. As the saying goes ... we are what we eat. Use correct gloves, respirators ... have ventilating systems, gas detectors, masks, etc. Remember, it is your life ... short or long, and with the domino theory well in place, these systems affect your family, those around you, your work and its output, etc.

#### **SCARY HEADLINES**

... TWO DEATHS FROM CANCER/ANOTHER IN THE HOS-PITAL WITH CANCER FOR SURGERY/ANOTHER QUITE ILL NO DIAGNOSIS YET/TWO LET IN THEATRE DEPARTMENT ... ALL WITHIN THE LAST YEAR ...

It is a little scary and certainly worth finding more out about. Perhaps it was exposure to something, perhaps the strain of life, perhaps hereditary. What we do know about the ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY is that the MAJOR causes of death are heart attack and cancer.

The stress, strain, pressures in our lives and work, fatigue from overly long hours, poor conditions and environment, poor equipment, hazardous facilities, and the build-up of other environmental factors, certainly contribute to these two end results. We are marvelous machines, sturdy, but delicate systems. But, we can break down, quickly. Should we not examine carefully and with all at our behest, the causes of our demise? Not a cursory exam, but highly scientific. Perhaps we add a bit with alcohol, tobacco, noise, other toxics from work, and we send the molecular cataclysm propelling toward illness and death.

Perhaps we should take the obvious precautions like many others in the Entertainment Profession take: Organize at every level; one solid group or union to represent our care and concern; demanding care and giving it to ourselves. Who else will do it? You have to care first. We have to campaign and get others to be concerned. We must orient others about care so that no one is left out. All old and new employees, students, academicians, all carefully indoctrinated about our health and safety ... training and testing for problems, keeping records so that we can trace problems and come up with solutions ... not trial and error with our lives. DON'T WAIT FOR OSHA OR THE STATE LABOR, OR HYGIENE GROUP. Don't wait for the insurance company, etc. Too often, most often, they don't get around to it or what is worse ... they don't know. Obtain accurate knowledge. Publicize that accurate knowledge.

Who said, because you chose Entertainment that you must work all day and night for money, grades, prestige, and lose your life? No one said ... don't work. It is the conditions that we deplore. Why be killed off early? Combine your efforts and let us push for the knowledge and the organization to help keep us healthy and safe. Work with the Commission on Safety Codes and Standards.

#### **OBJECTIVE INSPECTIONS**

In an industry such as ours, we need constant inspections. We need accurate objective and self-inspections, if necessary. We need a gadfly to help us sometimes. Not all of us are that efficient. Major industry wasn't and that is why OSHA came in. The laughing and the mockery is heard too often ... stories are told ... "My facility is a real trap. It is very hazardous, but the boss, or we don't have the money. If I hassle him or them, they'll get rid of me. I've got a family. Good jobs are hard to find and hold, y'know? Besides, we've got to save money, and when the guy down the block does it, we'll decide". Sound familiar? Maybe it's you. Or, "It's allright for you to sound high and mighty, you don't have to pay the bills. You don't have our schedule". Wow! That is really care, isn't it?

## SAFETY CODES Cont'd. from pg.

We know from some of top Fortune 500 companies that they will not spend one penny more than the minimum for safety. The law, yes. But only the minimum. Perhaps organizing is the best. Ponder it. Our health and safety a minimum. "I recall how I got started", Commissioner Davidson says. Someone said: "It is minimally safe". Hmmm. Comforting, eh? To what extent will you go to care for yourself, and the Industry that allows us to make our bread and butter, and increase the quality of life for us all?

Consider the substitutes: Perhaps the technology must be cut back or down. Scheduling might have to be cut back; alternative methods and materials used; new testing more often; more training; common concerns may help us eliminate common problems; (USITT) join; brainstorming (sessions of a funding element) in order to find solutions for common health and safety problems; an honest objective view of what we are doing to ourselves, our students, and all by holding back or overproduction. It all functions around \$\$\$... not lives, not concern, not safety and health, but \$\$\$ and profit. So, we're the Arts. Quality of life. Who's kidding who? It's the money. The COMMISSION FOR SAFETY CODES AND STANDARDS, USITT and its projects just might make the difference.

#### NAT'L. ENTERTAINMENT (THEATRE) SAFETY PROJECT

Some documents have been sent out. Nine people are on the Task Force. <u>ALL OF USITT MAY PARTICIPATE</u>. It is your project. We have continually asked for input. You ask what the project is. Okay, again ... it is a national survey to identify the illnesses, accidents, injuries, and their causes, as well as the personnel to whom they occur, and the buildings that these people work in.

We wish to record data and correlate this information with other injury statistics. We wish to know about the health and safety practices of the Entertainment Industry. WE WISH TO KNOW ON AN ORGANIZED, FUNDED BASIS. We will utilize professional and volunteer personnel. A small task force will direct the project. It will be under the direct auspices of the USITT. It will use questionnaires, but more than that, it will record via video tape and photographs, hazardous situations in facilities.

The Commission is thrusting for data and documented information. To date, we have had little input from most of the Committee, but we had a great deal from a few, both in and out of USITT. It is a joint venture.

We intend to set up a NETWORK across the country of all Arts and Allied Arts Organizations, with Government at all Levels, Education and Science, etc. A special recording system will be used and all the information will be computerized. The entire country will be divided into ten segments. USITT and Task Force personnel will be key people. They in turn will divide and feed information back to the base people and it will be recorded. Volunteer organizations, projects of students, Sections of USITT, regions of ATA, college courses, even thesis work, will be correlated with the NETWORK to collect data and record and document it. Special teams of volunteers will

research special areas. This information will be tied into specific data to be correlated back to the original document.

Again, we seek data and documentation. We will use a NETWORK approach, utilizing other organizations with USITT as the key base. Information will be verified and documented. Government agencies will work with us as will other health and safety groups interested in this work. It is a three-year project. It is the base for the next step. What do we find and what do we do with it? Training, etc.?

We are asking for your input, your knowledge, your nay or yea. It is important to the entire industry. It will be a first for the nation with USITT illustrating its concern for the entire industry.

#### ENTERTAINMENT ACT DRAFT

We are collecting material all of the time. Some areas are being revised. Some areas are being deleted. It is a time consuming project. If there are volunteers in this area, please let the Commissioner of Codes know. We are also attempting very hard to reduce the size so that it is more manageable. Any area that you wish to put into the DRAFT, please send. There are still requests for this material.

Continued caution and contact with all of the Government Agencies has been our watchword. OSHA refers some people to us, even. We have added HUD due to buildings, and the Commerce Department to cover Fire Prevention, and Defense in order to cover the Entertainment from special services. Theatre covers many areas. Inquiries have been received from States and from some businesses asking about USITT and the Safety work. So, we are covering the waterfront. We are swamped and cannot get to everyone. We will continue.

#### **COMMISSION GROWTH**

Mr. Randy Earles, Jr.'s Commission Survey indicated there is still interest and desire to work on Codes. We have some firm offers and they will be taken up. Please contact us. Interest and work must be made to coincide. Perhaps, and we have this from good sources and professional engineers, that Energy and Metrication are growing close to areas of Safety. We hope so, because we wish to have liaison, a working, forward liaison with all Commissions and work. Fourteen major articles will be coming out in the next six months in the area of Safety and the Codes. Look for them.

We will continue to look for Sections of USITT to take on Codes and Safety Projects. New Sections, old ones, all of them, can take an interest. Student Chapters, college credit courses, thesis work, volunteer work, even on the high school level (where we have many, many technical personnel) can help. Every person at every level can find a portion of our Commission to work with. A great way to involve yourself and GROW. Involvement, actual involvement of the Commission is up to near 186 for the last two years.

#### INPUT

Remember, direct all communications to the Commission of Safety Codes and Standards, Dr. Randall W.A. Davidson, 1612 Linwood Avenue, Erie, Pennsylvania 16510. (814) 459-8117.

#### 

"HAPPENINGS"

**NEWSBRIEFS** 

# SPOTLIGHTING THE SECTIONS

VIP VISITS

### PRESIDENT AND 1ST V.P. VISIT SECTIONS

President Edward F. Kook in his address to the Membership at the General Membership Meeting in Washington, D.C., reported that there is no substitute for personal visits to the Regional Sections. In connection with this program, the President divided visits between himself and 1st Vice-President Lee Watson. Here is a letter that appreciates such visits.

Edward F. Kook President U.S.I.T.T. 1501 Broadway New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Kook:

On behalf of the theatre technologists in the Southeast, I would like to thank you for sending Mr. Leland Watson to S.E.T.C. Mr. Watson was congenial and helpful. His presence and assistance demonstrated a genuine interest by the national office to foster a section of USITT here in the Southeast. Once again, thank you for your time and attention.

Appreciatively,

Russell E. Houchen Technical Director Wake Forest University Theatre Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Do you want to see your President? Let the national office know your wishes.

#### **SECTION HOPPING**

Lee Watson visited with the new Rocky Mountain Section February 3rd - 5th; attended the organizational meeting of a new Carolinas-Georgia Section at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Norfolk, Virginia on March 5th, and conducted both Master Classes and a public lecture for the new Cleveland Section on March 6th.

#### **CLEVELAND**

The Cleveland Section hosted over forty members and students at Karamu Playhouse for a three-hour Master Class-discussion Sunday afternoon, March 6th. That evening, over 45 attended a two-hour lecture with illustrative material by Lee Watson on PROJECTED SCENERY at Cleveland State College. It was also announced that the new Cleveland Section will join the Allegheny Section

in providing the Tech-Design program for the American Theatre Association, Region III (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin) Conference April 15th - 17th, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Be sure to attend. Lee was also the overnight house guest of Peg Ezekiel, a major leader in forming the new Cleveland Section, and Chairman of the Liaison with the Artist Commission of USITT. They discussed numerous USITT problems.

#### **NORFOLK**

The Norfolk, Virginia meeting was the annual Conference of the Southeastern Theatre Conference, also attended by USITT Treasurer, Al Cohen. A 9:00 A.M. meeting, Saturday, chaired by Robert Ploch, led to a 10:00 P.M. post-Award Banquet organizational meeting of Designers and Technicians in attendance. Under the guidance of Mr. Ploch and Mr. Russell Houchen, they organized a five-man Steering Committee and passed the necessary implementing resolutions to form a new Regional Section consisting primarily of members from North and South Carolina and Northeastern Georgia. Others in nearby areas will, of course, be welcomed as well as all S.E.T.C. members who wish to affiliate. Potentional ways for the USITT National Office assisting SETC in Conference preparation of Tech-Design offerings (as USITT does with ATA) were discussed.

#### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

The year-old Rocky Mountain Section met jointly with the ATA for a "Festivention" held at Idaho State College in Pocatello, Idaho, February 3rd - 5th. Seven new members were signed, bringing the total Rocky Mountain area to seventy members. Twenty members attended a USITT meeting with their officers and 1st Vice President Watson.

Dale Huffington, President-elect of ATA spoke briefly of his (and ATA's) firm support of joint USITT-ATA efforts, arrived at last year by President Kook and the USITT Board of Directors through liaison by National Liaison Chairman Van Phillips. Some forty members of both organizations attended a "CAREERS" session chaired by Lee Watson. An additional dozen students attended a one-hour session dealing with the United Scenic Artists union, and their annual Entrance Examination presented by Mr. Watson during this three-day meeting.

First Vice-President Lee Watson, upon arriving back at the New York office, stated that he felt all three trips to have been very valuable for USITT. Useful information was exchanged between the National Office and a potential new Section; with a new Section to be admitted at Washington, D.C.; and with a newly established Sectior in a distant area.

#### SPOTLIGHTING THE SECTIONS

The "potential", the "new", and the "established" were unanimously ratified by the Board of Directors at their meeting during the Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Section Charters are currently being printed welcoming these three new USITT Sections:

USITT CLEVELAND SECTION
USITT SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
USITT PACIFIC NORTHWEST SECTION

Proof that there is no substitute for a personal visit to the Regional Sections, or to areas where there is genuine interest in establishing a new USITT Section, is certainly reflected by the joining of these three new Sections.

#### MIDWEST

A special all-day WORKSHOP-DEMONSTRATION in SCENE PAINTING that is sure to interest many Midwest USITT members has been arranged for Saturday, April 30th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This considerably expanded workshop and demonstration of a variety of painting techniques will be conducted by Robert Moody, formerly Scenic Artist at Goodman Theatre, and past member of the Midwest Section. Mr. Moody has conducted two previous short demonstrations for the Midwest Section to large appreciative audiences. Those who have seen his work know his tremendous talent and knowledge. Master Scenic Artist, Mr. Moody's credits include Scenic Artist and Chargeman-Scenic Artist at such prestigious theatres and television as the Goodman Theatre, ABC-TV, St. Louis Municipal Opera, Volland Studios, Brandeis University, Peter Wolf Studios, Dallas Stage Scenery, and Becker Bros., Studios. In addition, Mr. Moody has lectured across the country at Universities and Colleges.

Those interested are urged to contact Frank Wukitsch, Workshop Coordinator, Midwest Production Service, 113 West Hubbard Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, regarding registration and fee. Those registering are invited to suggest special techniques and problems in scene painting for Mr. Moody to demonstrate.

#### THEATRE TOUR

Considerable interest has been received regarding the proposal for a theatre bus tour of theatres in Bloomington, Nashville, and Champaign. The proposal as conceived by USITT Midwest Chairman Glenn Naselius, would involve a weekend bus trip to the Opera House at Indiana University, several theatres in Nashville, including the new Grand Ole Opera House, and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois-Urbana. The tour might be attending weekend performances at one or more cities. Sufficient interest has been expressed that the tour is being considered for scheduling next Fall.

#### **IES/MIDWEST MEET**

Thirty-two people braved freezing temperatures to attend the joint meeting of USITT-MIDWEST and the ILLUMIN-ATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (IES) on January 10th.
Mr. Paul Trively, of the Lutron Electronics Corporation, discussed and demonstrated new dimming controllers for fluorescent and mercury vapor lamps. The dimmer unit is solid state and requires no lamp ballast. Fluorescent lamps are controlled with a smooth continuous dim with no

flicker or striations. The elimination of ballasts also eliminates the traditional noise of the fluorescent sources. Less heat is produced and at full intensity, 20% less power is consumed.

Similar controllers for mercury vapor lamps were demonstrated. With a dimming range fo from 100% to 2% lumen output, quick response times and smooth continuous dimming was seen. Control of the DC voltage prevents flicker and sets the level of illumination. The light sources also remain highly color consistent throughout the dim. The controllers can be interfaced with time clocks, photocells, or computers for energy management lighting systems. Considerable interest was expressed at the meeting. Richard Miller, Executive Board member of USITT-MIDWEST served as Chairman of the meeting.

#### **NEW ENGLAND**

Plans are now underway for a program related to Theatre Design on Saturday, April 30th, to be held at Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts. This program will coincide with a month long exhibition of CONTEMPORARY STAGE DESIGN USA, an exhibit compiled by the INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE (ITI). This exhibit has traveled to the USITT National Conference, the Prague Quadriennale, and the ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH THEATRE TECHNICIANS (ABTT) in London.

#### **NEW YORK**

In celebration of the 306th Anniversary of the profession of Theatrical Lighting Design\*

THE NEW YORK SECTION
U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY

Proudly Presents
SIP & SASS

A Thursday Evening Social and

Panel/Audience Discussion on the Subject

THE LIGHTING DESIGNER & THE THEATRE 1977

With distinguished panelists including Tharon Musser and Other Lighting Designers:\*\*
who have survived this Season. Moderator:
Dr. Joel E. Rubin, Kliegl Bros. Lighting Co.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28th SARDI'S BELASCO ROOM 234 West 44th Street

5:30 P.M. OPEN CASH BAR

6:30 P.M. DISCUSSION (and Open Cash Bar)

- \* Circa 1671 Athanasius Kircher "ARS MAGNA LUCIS ET UMBRAE"
- \*\* Positively no discrimination will be permitted as to race, creed, color, sex, age, talent, or income in the choice of panelists.

Immediately following the program there will be a very brief general membership meeting for the purpose of electing new officers.

#### SPOTLIGHTING THE SECTIONS

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

NOR-CAL USITT members met in February, at the ALCO PARAMOUNT industrial sound company's warehouse for a demonstration of sound control equipment. Hosted by Dan Besswick, ALCO's Engineer, and Mark Day, Installation Engineer, the members were treated to a carefully prepared and informative session. Mr. Besswick spent the morning explaining how acousticians arrive at systems design and formulate acoustic conclusions which the equipment must support. The afternoon session involved playing tapes demonstrating various techniques for sound control from the studio equipment. Better than half of the afternoon session, however, was spent in actual acousta-voicing of the ALCO warehouse with both engineers doing the entire procedure for the appreciative members.

#### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

IT HAPPENED AGAIN ... this time in Grand Junction, Colorado, January 15th and 16th at the Mesa College, Walker Fine Arts Center ... the second seminar in practical Theatre demonstration, and a good number of the USITT ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION members were in attendance. Members went all out to make this an excellent presentation, and a most informative session. The members from Grand Junction gave their time and devotion, and special thanks went to Perry Carmichael, Larry Beers, and their fine staffs for their organization and hospitality.

The major tone of the seminar was set by Jim Hill of Adams State College, with an excellent program covering some eight hours on various plastics and their application to scenery, props and the like. Mr. Hill brought many types of materials so that the audience could actually see how they were mixed, applied, and used in design technique. During the second section of the demonstration, members of the audience had the opportunity to work "Hands On" with the materials.

Perry Carmichael and Oscar Lee Walker also inserted some most interesting information on their experience in "Plastic and other applique for Scene Design".

Polly Kendrick, of the Colorado College moderated a session on problematic aspects of Costume Design. Polly showed several ways to take on the problem of chain mail and very ornate costumes and headpieces.

The third area covered was in the area of Basic Stage Lighting, chaired by John T. Redman. It was a well-needed question and answer period, where students and teachers alike had the opportunity to ask their favorite questions regarding design problems in lighting as they pertain to their particular plant.

#### **FESTIVATION '77**

Those who missed FESTIVATION '77 in conjunction with the ROCKY MOUNTAIN THEATRE ASSOCIATION and the USITT ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION in Pocatello, Idaho, February 3rd - 5th, missed an expertly run, well-attended and most informative series of programs. Mem-

bers had the opportunity to participate in several of the programs.

One of the high points of the Conference was the Career Opportunity session, lead and conducted by known professionals in various aspects of the theatre. Representatives from Actors' Equity, S.A.G., A.F.T.R.A., from the Broadcasting Industry, Community Theatre, and the Technical Theatre attended.

Those interested in Technical Theatre were treated to the sage advice and broad experience of Lee Watson, noted Lighting Designer, and First Vice-President of USITT. Another of the very special people, was Betty Williams of the Betty Williams Studio in New York City. Ms. Williams is a vivacious, energetic costumer whose knowledge of the lot and life of technicians in the "Big Apple" was both a trea and an eye-opener for everyone who attended her sessions.

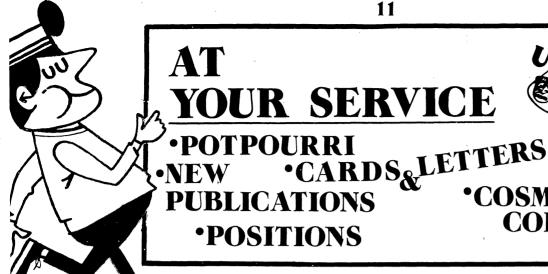
Some of the Rocky Mountain Section members took part in such discussions as pertained to the limitations and applications of some of the new products on the market ... specific questions dealt with the new paints (or at least those paints which were new to some of the audience) and the techniques necessary to use them most efficiently. Another point of interest was the availability of Roscotalix and the new Rosco color medium Roscolux. Experiences of those who have already used these products were probably as beneficial as the demonstration of the products themselves, especially to those who have never used them.

Robert Schiller of Strand Century gave a most interesting demonstration and discussion on their new Multi-Q System, and its application. There are many who believed that memory systems and the newer control systems are overloading everyone with too much hardware; to which Bob very aptly replied that "these systems are designed to control light in ways which has not been possible before (with manual systems) and allows us to train new Lighting Designers; Better Lighting Designs; and not just Board Operators". The concept of what the machine can do rather than how complex the machine is, was quite a new one to some of the participants.

Theatre Safety generated a lively discussion with several people sharing their experiences and encounters with inspectors, safety engineers, and the men from OSHA. Special thanks went to Hank Crumb of Idaho Falls, and to Richard Haslam of Snow College, who added greatly to the discussion.

Don Seay of the University of Wyoming, took time out from setting up his production on Saturday to conduct an excellent workshop on <u>Perspective Rendering for Scene Design</u>. After some gaps in the communication line on this session (such as Don not knowing that he was doing the workshop until a few days before the Conference) it turned out as one of the great successes of the Conference. The Section thanked Don, and thanked Mel Reid of Grumbacher for the donation of supplies for this session.

The <u>USITT/ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION</u> wishes to note their appreciation to the <u>ROCKY MOUNTAIN THEATRE ASSOCIATION</u>, its President Frank <u>Jacobson</u>, and the Conference Host, Allen Blomquist for allowing them to participate in such a positive way in their Conference. It is sincerely hoped that this spirit of cooperation will extend toward future projects.









#### **COSTUMERS APPLY**

Concordia University, The Faculty's Division of Performing Arts invites applications for the post of Costume Designer-Teacher to take charge of the costume area and teach in the Theatre Arts Programme which offers B.F.A. legrees in Drama, Performance, Drama in Education, and Scenography. The Theatre Section presently comprises 3 full-time faculty members, including 4 in scenography, plus one full-time technical supervisor and paid student issistants. The position is available June 1, 1977.

- !UALIFICATIONS: -MFA degree or equivalent professional experience; Design, pattern drafting, and cutting experience is required;
  - -Teaching experience at university or equivalent institution is desirable;
  - -Bilingualism is considered an asset

(French and English)

UTIES:

- -Designing, cutting, and supervising the execution of costumes for 4 to 6 productions each academic year;
- -Teaching courses in costume design and costume construction;
- -Interest and ability to teach in another area of theatre are highly desirable.

The normal teaching load is three courses per year 18 credits). Production work is included as part of the eaching course load, but a certain amount of work in roduction outside of the normal course load is expected. ank and salary are negotiable depending upon qualificaions and experience. The closing date for applications s March 15, 1977 (OR UNTIL FILLED\*)

Application should be accompanied by a complete urriculum vitae and a dossier including slides or photoraphs of design work, and three letters of reference or he names of at least three persons who are familiar with he applicant's work and who would be prepared to provide eferences.

\*Address all inquiries to:

Professor Joseph T. Cazalet, Director Division of Performing Arts Concordia University 7141 Sherbrooke Street, West Montreal P.Q. H4B 1R6

#### **DESIGNER NEEDED**

SCENERY AND LIGHTING DESIGNER/TEACHER position is available at the East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, August 22, 1977 through May 9, 1978.

RESPONSIBILITIES: -To design five major productions, teach lighting and scenery de-

sign.

**OUALITICATIONS:** 

-M.F.A. plus professional experience.

SALARY:

-\$18,000 plus, depending on ex-

DATE:

perience, for nine (9) months. -August 22, 1977 - May 9, 1978.

Apply to:

Edgar R. Loessin, Chairman Department of Drama and Speech East Carolina University Greenville, North Carolina 27834

East Carolina University is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin. It is the University's dedicated policy to promote the full realization of the equal

opportunity doctrine through a continuing program of affirmative action.

#### "CONFERENC-AIDING"

The membership is urged to write to Ralph Duckwall and to Peter Sargent with their suggestions on how to improve panel procedures, or whatever else is deemed necessary to better serve our membership at the annual conferences.

Write to:

Ralph W. Duckwall 901 Hillside Drive Long Beach, California 90815

Peter Sargent Webster College 470 East Lockwood St. Louis, Missouri 63110

#### AT YOUR SERVICE

# THEATRE WITH TEA & SOUVLAKI

Ancient Greek drama and contemporary British Theatre will be subjects of two overseas seminars to be offered this summer in London and Athens, respectively, by Temple University's School of Communications and Theatre, Dr. Kenneth Harwood, Dean of the School, has announced. Both seminars will run from June 27th through July 29th, and are open to graduate or undergraduate students, theatre professionals or teachers.

Heading the British Theatre Seminar will be Kenneth Adam, former Head of BBC-TV, a governor of both the National Youth Theatre and the Shaw Theatre, and one-time drama critic of the Manchester Guardian. Morning sessions include outstanding guest speakers from all phases of the London Theatre, including actors, directors, producers, critics and writers. Afternoons will be devoted to backstage visits to London theatre productions and day trips to regional theatre centers and drama schools.

The seminar in ancient Greek drama will center in Athens with additional side trips to theatre offerings throughout the country. Prominent scholars specializing in ancient Greek drama will serve as lecturers and discuss problems concerning its revival and impact on modern audiences. Tours of Northern and Western Greece include visits to theatres at Thebes, Delphi, Peloponnese, Epidaurus, Corinth, Argos, Thessalonika and the islands of Aegina and Salamis. Conducting the tour will be Dr. Nikos Metallinos, Assistant Professor of communications at Temple, who is a former member of the National Theatre of Greece, and a graduate of the Athens Drama School.

Tuition for each seminar is \$475 which does not include food, lodging or transportation expenses. Six semester hours of graduate or undergraduate credit will be given on completing assigned readings, attendance at seminar sessions and a research paper. The research paper is not required of those auditing the seminar. Additional information may be obtained by contacting: Louis Giulina, School of Communications and Theatre, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122, (215) 787-8347.

#### "CLUB 44"

The USITT/New England Section and the Illuminating Engineering Society will present A NIGHT AT "CLUB 44", Friday, May 13th, 1977 at 6:30 P.M., WGBH/WGBX-TV Studios, 125 Western Avenue, Allston, Massachusetts.

The group will be guests of "Club 44", a two-hour local access television program. The show airs every Friday at 7:30 P.M. on WGBX, Channel 44 (WGBH's UHF sister station).

This is your chance to see a television production from start to finish, and to be on TV as a member of the "live" studio audience. And here's the extra added attraction ... FREE REFRESHMENTS:

Space is generous, but not unlimited. You must RSVP by May 1, 1977 to John Gates, Capron Lighting Co., Inc., 278 West Street, Needham Heights, MA. 02194 that you want to attend, or call him at (617) 444-8850

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

New publications from Theatre Arts Books, 333 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York 10014, include two publications written by USITT members Frederick Bentham and Francis Reid:

THE ARTS OF STAGE LIGHTING By Frederick Bentham 2nd Edition (Revised and Expanded) \$16.95

THE STAGE LIGHTING HANDBOOK By Francis Reid \$10.45

A belated "thank you" is extended to Theatre Arts Books for providing material on Robert Edmund Jones, for President Edward F. Kook's presentation "The Contributions of Robert Edmund Jones to Stage Lighting" given at the Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, on February 10th, a program of the USITT New York Section.

#### TCG PAMPHLET

THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (TCG) has revised and enlarged its <u>Information for Playwrights</u> phamplet with up-to-date information. The publication is available free of charge to anyone sending a stamped (.24¢) self-addressed envelope to Theatre Communications Group, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

#### **CASSETTE COURSE**

A newly-created cassette tape series, "Drama and the Related Arts in Education", will soon be helping teachers use pratical dramatic techniques in their classrooms. A major responsibility of schools is to "develop people", but only recently have educators realized the significant role that drama can play in the process.

British dramatist and educator Brian Way helped create this awareness with his popular book, <u>DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DRAMA</u>, and through his dynamic workshop courses for teachers. Mr. Way has emphasized the importance of "knowing <u>why</u> you are doing whatever it is you are doing", and this new tape series helps teachers understand and use this philosophy at a practical level.

Material for the ten cassettes in the series was drawn from five separate workshop courses led by Mr. Way, and his instructions to the teacher-participants have been included exactly as they took place. Subsequent to the workshops, Way recorded his detailed thoughts about why particular approaches were used, what he observed during the practical work-outs and his reasons for the next steps. The two separate sets of recordings were then edited and integrated by Educators Tape Service, to provide a unique approach to the shared process of teaching.

The tape series was designed to be used for personal and professional development as well as in preservice inservice training. Titles for the ten cassettes are: "DRAMA, EDUCATION AND CHILDREN", "INTRODUCTION AND BEGINNINGS IN DRAMA", CONCENTRATION, SENSES AND IMAGINATION", IMPROVISED MOVEMENT", "MOVEMENT/DANCE DRAMA", "DANCE, DRAMA AND ART", "SOCIAL DRAMA/SON ET LUMIERE", "CREATIVE SLIDE MAKING", "FIGHTING IN DRAMA", and "PLAYMAKING AND PLAY-BUILDING/QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION".

The innovative cassette tapes are available, individually or as a complete set, from Educators Tape Service, P.O. Box 5444, Helena, Montana 59601.



# WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY THEATRE VOLUNTEERS TICK?

In a Community Theatre situation there is always the problem of enticing volunteers to do technical work. For many, it may be fun for awhile, but the long hours and hard work dims the glamour of the Theatre. Where there are no grades or financial remuneration to keep one going on to sew those hundreds of buttons or hooks and eyes, or stay late to wash out makeup brushes and sponges, what do trained student costumers, drafted-parents-turned-costumers do to entice volunteers to work and enjoy or just take pride in what needs to be done? What makes them come back for more? The following observations and ideas may help you entice volunteers for technical work in Community Theatre.

COMMENTS BY C. KENT

I don't think the word is "entice". If they don't want to work, you shouldn't force them. If they are not sufficiently interested in theatre, perhaps the That is, make certain term to use is to "educate". people know that a community theatre exists and what it has to offer. This might include orientation or sample sessions on what is available for them to do. Many don't know there is a community theatre organization or that they can come and work. A series of workshops and demonstrations could give specific ideas of the kind of opportunities available. These could be held in the theatre facility unless the location is difficult to reach. The workshop location should be convenient, but one where you can control people and projects, not outdoors, not for casual passersby. In a casual mall-type atmosphere, general interest can be generated in the existence of the organization, but, it is difficult to "educate".

Examine successful and long-enduring community theatre projects in this country (and there aren't that many) you will find they have developed some kind of mechanism allowing them to develop a core of trained people who could always be identified, always be depended upon. The turnover rate of this core usually is in the order of 3 to 5 years. Without this central group of people, a successful on-going continuously-existing community theatre organization is almost impossible. Realize that perhaps a continuous organization is not appropriate; there are some that exist for only summer productions; others assemble themselves for only one production a year. It really depends on what is perceived to be needed.

There are all sorts of ways of strengthening this core by establishing a series of incentives. Some use different point systems with different categories of membership in the organization coupled with different kinds of voting rights. There are different levels of membership depending on the amount and kind of work being done. Points are accumulated by not only amount of work, but quality of work. A makeup crew member would get so many points per show; supervisors would get more points per show. The usual gimmick is first to accumulate a certain number of points to remain a member; the member is obligated for a certain amount of work. Beyond that, additional points are accumulated allowing additional responsibility, therefore allowing a different category of membership, allowing additional voting or personal privileges.

COMMENTS BY ANN LEVIN

Volunteers want some kind of reward. Some rewards are recognition through applause, a nice note of acknowledgement in the program, a token of appreciation from the organization (plaque, deal, pin), some appreciate recognition by receiving additional responsibilities. Abilities must be analyzed. Allow and encourage volunteers to develop from helpers, to special projects, to designing their own show if they are capable.

Costumers should educate volunteers to travel up this ladder of capability and responsibility and with this allow them to travel up various levels of board member responsibilities. If it is something so common that everyone is recipient, it is no true recognition; it should be something special. A pin or medallion, for example, are satisfying because they can be worn as a badge of honor. Even free tickets to the show would be a reward (plus an additional paying guest may tag along). The number of hours could dictate who would receive one ticket, two tickets, a pin, a medallion, a plaque, a bowl, or the height of recognition ... a lifetime pass.

#### OTHER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Do not allow paid workers to flaunt their power or paychecks over volunteers.
- •Stars in programs denoting number of hours, quality of service to the show, star or symbol denoting number of years of service. Note in program/playbill the most valuable worker, the most inspirational worker, the most congenial, the most hours, etc.
- ◆ Name badge with Organization name and "Assistant" or particular honor or title to be worn at all functions and working periods for identification. Badge color could denote years of dedication: 1 year-Green, 2 years-Red, 3 years-Yellow, 4 years-Blue, over 5 years-Bronze, over 10 years-Silver, over 15 years-Gold. Articles in newspapers regarding these special people.
- Awards Banquets recognizing these special people. Have pot-luck meals breaking up long working periods, realizing that being too social where accomplishment is not stressed is not good; but also, all work and no play (or nourishment) is bad. Families invited at times. Invite possible volunteers to see a play (no/charge) and have a workshop or demonstration afterwards.
- Design Contest: Have a Design Contest and publicize to community. Choose a play where one specific character in the show could be designed and still work in with other designs in the show done by the costumer.

# ENGINEERING Fred. M. Wolff, Commissioner Vice Commissioners, Peggy Clark Kelley David Klepper

At the last meeting of the Engineering Commission a motion was passed to solicit suggestions from the Membership for areas in the Theatre Industry where reporting formats and standards for design and performance of facilities and equipment could be helpful. We are not, nor do we intend to establish data for the standards themselves. Examples would be:

Format for reporting photometric performance of luminaires.

Format for reporting electronic dimmer characteristics.

Maximum allowable rise times for currents in dimmers for various uses.

 $\label{eq:maximum_allowable} \begin{tabular}{ll} Maximum allowable tolerances in stage floor construction. \end{tabular}$ 

Recommended number of plumbing fixtures per performer.

Please send replies and suggestions to:

Robert Davis Jules Fisher Associates 212 West 15th Street New York, New York 10011

The project "Fire and Flameproofing of Scenery" of the Engineering Commission was originally undertaken by Alan Symonds and Richard Land at Harvard University, and considerable work was done in this field. However, because of other important commitments, both of these members have been forced to reluctantly retire from chairmanship. It is a most interesting and worthwhile undertaking. Any member or members who wish to volunteer for the chairmanship of this project will have the advantage of the reports and material which has already been produced. Access to laboratory facilities, however, is a must. If you are interested, please get in touch with the Commissioner of Engineering,

#### INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

Joel E. Rubin, Commissioner

#### **OISTT INVITED IN '78**

The following letter was sent to the Secretary General, OISTT, by Dr. Joel E. Rubin, Chairman, USITT International Liaison Commission:

OISTT Celetna ul. 17 110 01 Prague 1, Czechoslovakia

Attention: The Secretary General

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

On behalf of the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology and the International Liaison Commission of USITT in which is located the U.S. Center of the OISTT ....

We are pleased to invite the members of the Technicians Commission of the OISTT to meet in the United States during the time period March 28/April 1, 1978 in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the USITT and associated scenographic and technical exhibits in Phoenix, Arizona. Hotel room, a small expense per diem and conference registration will be provided free of charge to the single designated commission member of each national center of OISTT as well as the Secretary General of OISTT, appropriate members of the Secretariat Staff, and the Chairman of the Commission of Program.

If appropriate, and if the members of the Commission advise us promptly of their interest it might be possible to extend the visit of the commission members for an additional period of days and provide extended hospitality and tours of major theatre facilities and technical theatre centers in the United States.

The USITT looks forward with great pleasure to the acceptance of this invitation by the various national centers of OISTT and we assure you of a most cordial welcome by your colleagues here in the United States.

Sincerely,

USITT

Joel E. Rubin, Chairman International Liaison Commission

#### **COSMAK**

• Sewing Contest: Have a sewing costume contest. Choose the play carefully, so all costumes sewn could appear in production. (This can also be done with the Design Contest).

COSMAK thanks all of you for your comments and suggestions above, especially BAKERSFIELD for their suggestion for this column topic.

Editor's Note: Ms. Graham actively participates in the USITT Costume Commission, and is a member of the Northern California Section. Any comments, questions or ideas are always welcome. Write to Ms. Graham, COSMAK'S CORNER, USITT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION, c/o 2405 North Millbrook, Fresno, California 93703.

In the May/June Newsletter: CORNERED BY COS-MAK ... Professor Jeanette Bryon, "The Research Costumer: Study in London".

RM/USITT also held an informal meeting for both current and potential members of USITT. Lee Watson explained the functions and achievements of the National Organization, and was very encouraging in regard to the activities of the Section.

# TEXAS TECHNICAL EXPOSÉ

A Technical Exposé entitled "HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT IT?" is being sponsored by the USITT/Texas Section, Saturday, May 14th, 8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. at the Houston Stage Equipemnt Corporation, 2301 Dumble Street, Houston, Texas 77023. The program is open to High School Teachers, College and University Faculty, Staff and Students and Non-profit Theatres in Texas.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE					
8:30 - 9:30 A.M.	USITT Board Meeting				
9:30 - 9:45 A.M.	"Coffee to Wake Up!"				
9:45 - 11:45 A.M.	"Building Materials For Any Budget - Even Yours"				
11:45 - 12:30 P.M.	"Textures to Tantalize the Teacher of Theatre"				
12:30 - 1:00 P.M.	"Box Lunch and Bull Session"				
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	"Paint By Numbers - Or Scenic Artists Were Students Too"				
3:00 - 4:00 P.M.	"How To Understand and Cope With Electricity"				
4:00 - 4:30 P.M.	"Coffee and the Yellow Pages"				
4:30 - 5:30 P.M.	"Group Therapy!"				
5:30 -	Dinner (Dutch)				
Workshop Fee: (Registration Deadline 5/1/77)\$15.00					

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### APRIL

4th - 17th	American College Theatre Festival,
	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing
	Arts, Washington, D.C.

11th - May 8th. USITT CONTEMPORARY STAGE DESIGN USA Exhibit, Wheaton College, Norton, Mass.

18th - 24th ... Children's Arts Festival, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

19th ... USITT/Northern California Section THEATRE TOUR, San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton, California.

21st - 23rd ... New England High School Drama Festival,
Portsmouth Senior High School, Portsmouth,
New Hampshire.

23rd ... USITT/Midwest Section COSTUME PATTERN WORKSHOP (Time & Place to be announced).

28th ... USITT/New York Section SIP & SASS: THE LIGHTING DESIGNER AND THE THEATRE 1977, Belasco Room, Sardi's Restaurant, New York City, 5:30 P.M. -

30th ... USITT/Midwest Section SCENE PAINTING WORK-SHOP, Scenic Artist Robert Moody, Conducting.

30th ... USITT/New England Section "THEATRE DESIGN" Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.

#### MAY

13th ... USITT/Midwest Section <u>SOME APPROACHES TO</u> SOUND ON STAGE, Sonart <u>Studios</u>, <u>Chicago</u>,

13th ... USITT/New England Section TECHNICAL THE-ATRE PROGRAM, WGBH-WGBX-TV, Allston Mass. (With IES/New England).

25th - 29th ... New England Theatre Conference COMMUNITY THEATRE DRAMA FESTIVAL, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

#### JUNE

3rd - 4th ... MICHIGAN THEATRE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
1st Statewide Theatre Conference, Michigan
State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

24th - 26th ... AMERICAN COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION
National Festival of American Community
Theatres, Spokane Civic Theatre, Spokane,
Washington.

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER, APRIL 15th. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER AFTER THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE WILL BE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, DEADLINE DATE FOR COPY INPUT AUGUST 15th.



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Wooster, Ohio 44691

USITT welcomes the following new members who have recently joined the Institute. The code numbers and letters below indicate class of Membership and Commission preference.

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- 7.

8. SCENOGRAPHY COMMISSION

 ${\tt TECHNICAL\ INFORMATION\ COMMISSION,\ Allan\ M.\ Bailey,\ Commissioner.}$ 

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 $\hbox{\tt Members joining a Commission or Commissions are}\\$ reminded that active participation is requested in that Commission(s) new and on-going projects.

**Continued on Page 17** 

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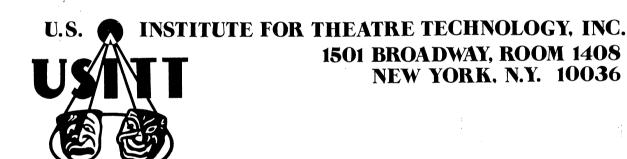
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