

# usitt newsletter

August, 1987

Editor: Ron Olson

Vol. XXVII No. 8

## USITT DESIGN EXHIBIT TAKES TOP PRIZE AT PRAGUE

### U.S. Wins the International "Olympics" of Theatre Design

The United States has taken the highest honors in the International "Olympics" of theatre design—the Prague Quadrennial of scenic and costume design.

The work of nearly 300 US designers, including Tony and Oscar-winning Patricia Zipprodt, Ming Cho Lee, Tony Walton, Heidi Landesman, Florence Klotz, William Ivey Long and Patrizia von Brandenstein was displayed in the award-winning US exhibit.

In an awards ceremony held June 12, 1987 in Prague's Waldstein Palace, the United States of America received the grand prize Gold Trigu (The Zlatou Trigu is a baroque sculpture of three golden horses of victory).

Accepting the Trigu for the US were Dr. Joel E. Rubin, producer of the exhibit; lighting designer Jennifer Tipton; and David Ramsey of the North Carolina School of the Arts. (principal Exhibit Designer John Conklin had rushed back to the US to fulfill another design commitment.)

The Prague Quadrennial, and International exhibition and competition for contemporary stage and costume design and theatre architecture, is sponsored by the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Culture.

The "gold" is awarded every four years and will remain the permanent trophy for USITT.

The US exhibit was constructed and erected by the North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC under the supervision of John Sneden, Dean of the School of Design and Production, and David Ramsey, Technical Director.

Major support of the exhibit came from the USITT, the United States Information Agency's Arts America, Samuel Scripps, the National Endowment for the Arts, North Carolina School of the Arts, the Reed Foundation and from corporations including Pan American World Airways Inc., Production Arts Lighting, Rosco Laboratories, Strand Lighting, Sony Corporation of America and *Theatre Crafts Magazine*.

This, the 20th anniversary Prague Quadrennial, was best attended: 38 countries, including Great Britain, Japan, Italy, the German Federal and Democratic Republics and the Soviet Union competed for the single award. The International jury of 16 countries was almost unanimous in choosing the US entry. Heralding our exhibit, the jury commented, "It is a celebration of us as designers and the work we do."

Winners in other categories included the USSR (best exhibit on the theme of Chekov) and Czech designers Josef Svoboda and Ladislav Vychodil. Dr. Joel E. Rubin, Chair for International Liaison for the Institute, finally had a chance to present the USITT special award to Joseph

Svoboda in person, on behalf of the USITT, at a reception for the US delegation at the US Ambassador's residence in Prague before an assembly of 450 guests. Svoboda "had tears in his eyes" upon receipt of our award.

Titled "Design and Process", the US exhibit is a one-story "building" of four rooms: a Los Angeles art director's studio, a New York scenic designer's studio, a costume designer's shop and a lighting designer's studio.

Approximately 200 pieces of art by more than 70 US scenic and costume designers were on display: rough sketches, drawings, fabric swatches, finished models and renderings, production shots, set pieces and costumes. The work of another 200 scenic, costume and lighting designers appeared on video monitors the set. An extensive library of American books on theatre design available for browsing proved especially popular.

Because the US books on design proved to be extremely popular, we send this plea to authors and publishers. Plans to tour the prize-winning US exhibit for several months with bookings in Amsterdam, Belgrade and further . . . are in the works.

If you are the author dealing with the exhibition, or if you have a book published dealing with the fields of interest of the USITT in Architecture, Costume Design and Technology, Education, Engineering, Health and Safety, Lighting Design, Sound Design, Scenic Design, Technical Production, or Theatre and Production Management, we need your contribution of additional copies to be used in touring the exhibit. Please send copies to Michelle LaRue, Project Coordinator, PQ 87, c/o *Theatre Crafts*, 135 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010 or call her and tell her "they're in the mail". (212) 677-5997. DEADLINE, August 15, 1987!

The US exhibit is a project of the USITT. Joel E. Rubin, consultant to businesses allied to the arts, headed USITT's PQ 87 Steering Committee – working with Associate Chair Patricia MacKay, Editor/Publisher of *Theatre Crafts*; Whitney Blausen of TDF's Costume Collection; Stan Miller, President of Rosco Laboratories; Samuel Scripps; designers John Conklin, Roger Morgan, Carrie Robbins, Douglas W. Schmidt, and Jennifer Tipton and Project Coordinator Michèle LaRue.

The next Prague Quadrennial is set for 1991.

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## Memberships

This newsletter is made possible through the generosity of the Contributing and Sustaining Members listed. The Officers, Board of Directors and entire membership of the USITT gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of these friends of the Institute.

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Amecon, Inc.	Malabar Ltd.	Stage Engineering International Ltd.
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Dyna-Might Sound and Light	Ornamental Resources, Inc.	Weststar Corporation
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Electronics Diversified, Inc.	Phoebus Manufacturing	S. Wolf's Sons

## News From The National Office

by David Diamond

In the past few weeks, we at the National Office have been re-organizing your space streamlining our services. We are now better equipped to handle your questions, requests and problems. We've even got a new look; our walls are covered with a fresh coat of paint and our floors with new carpeting. When travelling to New York, we invite you to come up for a visit; meet the staff, look through our publications, and get our recommendations for restaurants and night spots.

The Fourth Biennial Scenography Exhibit is enjoying a successful run at its current home at Lincoln Center. Hundreds of visitors have seen the designs, models and costumes displayed. Due to our public relations efforts, we have had articles and listings describing the exhibit in many local newspapers.

If you are interested in obtaining a catalog of the Exhibit, we have them available. The cost is \$6.50 for members and \$7.50 for non-members.

Other new publications available from the National Office include reprints of the *Promotion and Tenure Evaluation of the Theatrical Design and Technology Faculty: Issues and Recommended Guidelines* to be published in the Fall edition of TD&T and the new *Standards for Dimmer Controls*. For members the cost is \$5.00 and \$4.00, respectively. Non-members pay a dollar more for each.

All Regional Section Chairs and commissioners should have received updated lists of members in the Sections or Commissions. We will send you updated lists every other month.

I have enjoyed speaking with many of you on the phone during the last few weeks and I look forward to meeting those of you who will be attending the Board/Commissioner Meetings in Seattle.

As we continue to streamline and make better use of our computerized membership database, unavoidably somebody's membership information falls through the cracks. If you are having any trouble with your membership, not receiving publications, or getting too many renewal notices after you have paid, please let us know so we can correct the few remaining problems.

## Mario Botta Exhibit

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is holding the first major American survey of the work of contemporary Swiss architect Mario Botta from Aug. 20-Oct 4, 1987. The exhibition consists of photographs, architectural models, and original drawings illustrating twenty projects from the past fifteen years: nine private houses in Switzerland; ten buildings (constructed and proposed) in Switzerland, France, and Japan; and the plan for a monumental urban housing structure in Turin, Italy.

The exhibition was organized by the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the curator was Stuart Wrede.

An exhibition catalog, MARIO BOTTA, accompanies the exhibition, and includes an essay by Wrede and an interview with Botta, supplemented by descriptions of the architect's built works and project proposals. The catalog includes 150 black-and-white illustrations, and is available for \$8.95 plus handling charges and postage, from the SFMMA, Museum Bookshop, 401 Van Ness Ave., SF, CA 94102-4582; (415) 863-8800.

## Profiles of Local Real Estate Markets

by Tina Margolis

Thirty-two major US real estate markets, plus Vancouver, are described in *ULI Market Profiles: 1987*, a book just published by the Urban Land Institute.

The development sectors described are the residential market, the retail market, the office market, the hotel market and the industrial market.

The thirty-two metropolitan areas described are Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Colorado Springs, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Fort Lauderdale, Honolulu, Houston, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Nassau/Suffolk Counties, New York City, Norfolk, Northern New Jersey, Orange County, CA, Orlando, Palm Beach, Phoenix, Raleigh/Durham, Riverside/San Bernardino, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Vancouver, and Washington, D.C.

*ULI Market Profiles: 1987* is \$110, plus \$5 per copy for shipping and handling. Book orders may be placed with the Urban Land Institute, Publications Orders, 1090 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. (202) 289-3381.

## Newsletter Circulation Notice

Since we have been on the monthly publication schedule for the Newsletter for the past year, there have been a number of members who have been short-changed in not getting their issues on schedule. Generally, the Newsletter is mailed by the 15th of the month previous to its date of issue. This August issue will be posted from Tucson on the 14th of July.

The Federal Post Office guarantees delivery of bulk mail within the continental United States within three weeks from post time. So, if you do not receive your Newsletter before August 4, 1987, please take a copy down to your local Post Office and let them know that they have not fulfilled their duty.

("Neither rain, nor sleet, nor gloom of night . . .")  
Ed.

## PQ '87 Catalog Available

The catalog "Design and Process" which accompanied the US Exhibit to the Prague Quadrennial this past June is now available to members through the National Office for the cost of \$10.00 which includes shipping and handling. While the cost may seem high, we hope that members will take this opportunity to invest in not only the catalog, but a memento of this very proud moment for the Institute and in the future backing of the Institute's activities, and specifically in supporting the International Tour of our exhibit. Further information regarding the tour of this "victorious" exhibit will be released in upcoming Newsletters.

Please make your checks payable to the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. and mail them to the USITT National Office, 330 West 42nd Street, Suite 1702, New York, NY 10036. Your ten dollars will help to make the difference.

In the meantime, our 1986 Fourth Biennial Scenography Tour is on display at the Library and Museum of the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, New York through September 7, 1987. If you have not taken advantage of seeing it, do. Future tour dates for this exhibit will be announced in the next Newsletter.

# COSMAK'S CORNER

by Bernice A. Graham

Several books on patterning and tailoring are published by The Master Designer in Chicago.

All books are soft-bound; in fact, most are bound in report covers. They are relatively inexpensive, costing between \$10 to \$15 each when purchased in 1986. All may be ordered from:

The Master Designer  
343 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-922-9075

*Modern Custom Tailoring for Men*, compiled by A. Waisman and Master Designer - This is a "how to" book on men's tailoring. It includes sections on taking measurements; tailoring of trousers, sack coats, topcoats, tuxedos and vests; alterations of coats, vests and trousers; and simple repairing. It contains a table of measurements for boys' and men's tailored garments up to size 55 waist and 52 chest.

*Modern Garment Design and Grading: Clothing for Men and Boys*, by Master Designer - This book contains a series of standard size drafts for a wide variety of men's tailored garments plus a grading method which allows one to grade the standard patterns into a whole range of sizes. It also includes a chart for using a man's measurements to determine his correct garment size.

Among the styles included are riding breeches, jodphurs, shawl collar coats, double breasted vests, tail coats and overcoats. Also included is a method for developing a sack coat draft into an overcoat pattern to fit the same figure. I especially like the grading system: It produces 10 one-inch grades at the same time—five larger and five smaller than the standard size.

*Modern Method of Women's and Children's Garment Design*, compiled by A. Gebbia and Master Designer - This book contains instructions for drafting a series of standard size slopers plus a grading method which allows one to grade the standard patterns into a whole range of sizes. Bodice slopers for misses, women, half sizes, junior, girls, teens and children are all included; sleeve, skirt and slacks slopers for only misses and children. The book was originally copyrighted in the 50s but claims to have been updated to 1985. The grading system is similar to that used in the comparable men's book but produces

six two-inch grades—three larger and three smaller than the standard size. (The standard misses size is a 14.) The book also includes an extensive flat patterning section.

*The Modern Mitchell System of Men's Designing*, by Frank C. Doblin (spiral-bound) - This is essentially an expanded version of *Modern Garment Design and Grading: Clothing for Men and Boys*, except that the grading section has been curtailed and will only work using a parallel rule and a proportional divider. Includes some drafts for longs and shorts. Drafts found here, but not in *Modern Garment Design* include a Norfolk jacket, frock coat, Inverness, dress cape, mess jacket, smoking jacket (called a house coat), five styles of riding jackets, plus-fours, soutane, and cassock.

Thanks to Joy Erickson, Costumer, Department of Theatre Arts, NDSU, in Fargo, North Dakota, 58105 (701) 237-7705 for this useful information.

## Calendar of Events

### AUGUST

**International Association of Auditorium Managers**  
Sheraton-Washington, Washington, DC  
Contact: IAAM (312) 661-1700  
August 1 - 4.

**Illuminating Engineering Society**  
Camelback Inn, Scottsdale, AZ  
Contact: IES, (212) 705-7926  
August 2 - 6.

**USITT Costume Commission Symposium**  
University of Washington  
School of Drama, Seattle, WA  
August 6 - 8.

**USITT Commissioners and Board Retreat**  
Haggett Hall & McMahon Hall  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
August 9 - 11.

### SEPTEMBER

**Association of College, University and Community Arts Administrators**  
Midwest Regional Conference  
Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis, IN  
Contact: ACUCA (608) 233-7400  
September 27-29.

## Pre-Conference Sound Workshops for 1988 Conference

The Sound Design Commission wants ideas and organizers for a limited number of workshop sessions to be held in the period just before the opening of the 1988 Conference. These workshops may be either hands-on sessions or extended tutorials/master classes on topics of general interest and usefulness in any aspect of theatre sound.

We request that if you suggest a program you also be prepared to organize it. Organizing a workshop means:

- Contacting the necessary experts and support personnel to staff the program;
- Determining the funding (if any) required to support the program. Identifying possible sources of funding.
- Finding and securing access to necessary equipment and supplies needed to make the program happen.
- Laying out and communicating the time-lines, space requirements, schedule, and implementation plan for the event.
- Returning information promptly so that the project coordinator can relay it to the sound Design Commissioner in adequate time to obtain approval by and any support needed from the national organization and/or the conference committee.

**Responses must be received no later than October 15, 1987.**

Please send suggestions plus your name, address, and telephone number(s) to: Dr. John L. Bracewell  
Project Coordinator  
Department of Theatre Arts  
Ithaca College  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Members of the USITT mourn the untimely death of *Michael Bennett*, brilliant choreographer and director in the American Musical Theatre.

Michael's demands of excellence and his appreciation for technical theatre led to many advances in the fields of lighting and sound design. His "A Chorus Line" won nine Tony Awards and the 1976 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

Michael received USITT's Annual Award at the Conference in New Orleans in 1976.

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## USITT - It's a Resource!

### INFORMATION

Our journal, monthly newsletter and publications put the latest design and production ideas onto your desk every month.

### SUPPORT

The ten Commissions of USITT are your direct link to the practicing professionals and educators most active with the projects and workshops essential in keeping you up to date on the latest techniques and tips.

### VISIBILITY

Enter your work in the Design Exposition and see it tour North America.

### CONTACTS

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(212) 563-5551

**UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY**

330 WEST 42ND STREET, SUITE 1702 • NEW YORK, NY 10036-6978

**This is your opportunity to get involved in the process of preparing the next Prague Quadrennial Exhibition in 1991. Get involved in our Scenography Design Exposition '88 in Anaheim!**

## DESIGN EXPOSITION '88

**DESIGN EXPOSITION '88** is a biennial project of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology. These exhibits will be assembled to examine current trends in all aspects of performance design (theatre/music), recognize outstanding achievement in the field of design, as well as presenting design work from our theatrical heritage. To accomplish this vast undertaking, the EXPOSITION is divided into three sections:

**Juried Design Exhibit** will feature design work (scenery, costumes and lighting) from both students and members of the INSTITUTE along with non-member entries from working professionals. Selected designs are adjudicated by recognized professionals for inclusion in the juried exhibit.

**Design Showcase Exhibit** will feature award winning and distinguished designs (Tony, Oscar, Obie, Emmy) from other contests and juried expositions held since March 1983.

**Heritage Exposition Exhibit** will focus on a designer or design trends from our rich theatrical tradition.

**DESIGN EXPOSITION '88** will premier at the USITT National Conference, Disneyland Hotel, March 23-26, 1988, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. After the premier exhibit, DESIGN EXPOSITION '88 will be available for a national and international tour representing both "state of the art" and current design trends for both the United States and Canada.

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## RULES CONCERNING THE JURIED DESIGN EXHIBIT

1. All entries to the JURIED DESIGN EXHIBIT can be either realized or project designs. Realized work must have been produced since March 1983.
2. Please do *not* submit original artwork; instead, send 35mm slides that adequately present the design ideas (preliminary sketches, renderings, elevations, models, drafting when applicable) and, for produced designs, slides that display the realized sets, costumes, or lighting. **Please limit your selection to a MAXIMUM OF 10 SLIDES.** Use care in selecting slides; images chosen from your entry may be used in the DESIGN EXPOSITION '88 CATALOG. When applicable (dance, etc.), video tapes can be submitted (VHS format *only*).
3. Submit a "statement of intent" for your design entry. In a *concise* statement, address how the design relates to both the script and the concept/ideas particular to your production. Make the relationship clear between the various areas of design and your contribution to the production. This should not exceed 500 words.
4. Designs and completed entry form(s) **MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 17, 1987.** Mail design entry, registration/entry form *with fees*, vita, statement of intent, and list of slides to: C. Lance Brockman, 214 Middlebrook Hall, University of Minnesota, 412 22nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Use separate entry forms for each design (photocopy if needed).
5. After adjudication in late October, all entrants will be notified as to whether their design(s) have been accepted for inclusion in the JURIED DESIGN EXHIBIT. This will occur no later than November 10. If accepted, you will be given instructions on how to prepare your entry for presentation and exhibit. (**NOTE:** Failure to format or present your designs properly will result in disqualification and your entry will not be included in the JURIED DESIGN EXHIBIT.)

## ADJUDICATORS' RESPONSE TO PAST EXPOSITIONS

Entries should include a statement of intent that gives the particular circumstances and artistic approach to both the script and the production. The relationship between the designs, script, and concept should be made as clear as possible.

Use care in selecting images/slides that show not only your contribution to the production as designer but how it relates to the other design areas. This assists adjudicators in determining the quality and function of your design contribution and how well you fulfilled the statement of intent.

Student participation in past Expositions has been poor, and a better representation is and should be encouraged.

Lighting design is still an area that presents problems of evaluation to the adjudicators. It is suggested that lighting designers represent their intent with storyboards, sketches, and sequential photographic images that give adjudicators a sense of what the lighting contributed and how it has affected the overall production. This is necessary to supplement and explain the drafting and paperwork.

## SOME HINTS ON PREPARING YOUR DESIGN ENTRY

Use care in photographing your original design work (renderings, sketches, and model). If at all possible, use a lighted copystand for proper representation of your work. Suggested film is Ektachrome 160.

Spend time in preparing your statement of intent. It is best to have someone read your statement before submittal to determine if your ideas and information are clear and succinct.

Include the following information on your slide labels: NAME, TITLE OF PRODUCTION, IDENTIFICATION OF SUBJECT (e.g., Rendering of Act 1, costume for [character name], etc.) Please enclose a list of all slides sent with the entry. Include the above information and any concise explanation that will clarify what the adjudicators are viewing.

**Send the Vita/Registration form WITH ENTRY FEE  
and all accompanying documents by 17 OCTOBER 1987 to:**

C. Lance Brockman  
214 Middlebrook Hall  
412 22nd Avenue South  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

## REGISTRATION / ENTRY FORM

Fill out a separate entry form for each design. Photocopy if needed.

Designer \_\_\_\_\_

Title of production \_\_\_\_\_

Produced by \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of production \_\_\_\_\_

Place of production \_\_\_\_\_

All materials should be returned to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate categories:

Division:  Undergraduate  
 Member Graduate Student  
 Member Designer  
 Non-member Designer  
 Project Design

Category:  Theatre  
 Television  
 Film  
 Theme Park  
 Industrial Show

Fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student Design (\$10 each)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Member Design (\$25 each)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member Design (\$25 each)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Project Design (\$25 each)

Type:  Scenery Design  
 Costume Design  
 Lighting Design  
 Other ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

I understand that if selected for DESIGN EXPOSITION '88, my entry will be used in further exhibits until July 1992 as the committee sees fit.

## VITA FORM

This material will be used for biographical sketches in the DESIGN EXPOSITION '88 CATALOG.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Education (degree, year, institution) \_\_\_\_\_

Publications \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Society Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Honors/Recognition \_\_\_\_\_

Autobiographical Sketch (maximum 200 words): TO BE ATTACHED BY ENTRANT.

# usitt

EMPLOYMENT REFERRAL SERVICE

BOX 12484, ATLANTA, GA 30355-2484

Abbreviations used: AA/EOE (Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer); A/D (Application Deadline); ASAP (As Soon As Possible); SASE (Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope); SC (Search Committee).

## Scenery Design/Tech

**CA UNIVERSITY.** Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles seeks Designer/Technical Director/Teacher. Full-time staff position offered by Theatre/Dance Department. Starting date 9/1/87. Strong background in set and lighting design and technical directing for theatre AND dance. MFA preferable. Salary dependent upon education and experience. Apply to Judith Scalin, Chair, Theatre/Dance, LMU, Loyola Blvd. at W. 80th Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90045. Application deadline 8/1/87 or until job is filled. A representative will be interviewing candidates at ATHE convention.

**FL UNIVERSITY.** TECHNICAL PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - Temporary 7 month position, from Oct. 87 thru April 88. Responsible for 2400 seat auditorium stage set, lighting, assist with sound, call shows, supervise some personnel. No scenery, primarily used for orchestra & other musical performances, dance, lectures, film, etc. Salaried position; \$280-330 per wk. Spend a winter season in sunny south Florida. Send resume to Florida Atlantic University, University Center Auditorium, 500 N.W. 20th St., Boca Raton, FL 33431. ATTN: Richard Lewis. For more info. (305)393-3730.

## Services Available

**ERIN WERTENBERGER & DON STOWELL** design productions/exhibits. specializing in concept development, execution. Costume appraisals available. Creative Consulting & Design, Box 11588, Atlanta, GA 30355-1588. (404)351-0430.

**PLEASE HELP US SERVE YOU!** Show listings to your Chairman or Managing Director and explain that for only \$1 per word (\$75 minimum charge) you can reach the over 2,500 members of USITT (plus thousands of "over-the-shoulder" readers) each month. Copy and post listings so others will know about and use them.

**WATCH FOR USITT RESUME BANK . . . COMING SOON.** We will spread your resume throughout our computerized network to theatres, shops and schools looking for your particular skills. Be the first in line for new positions as they come open. Contact: USITT-ERS, Box 12484, Atlanta, GA 30355-2484.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 1, 1987**

**U.S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC.**  
330 West 42nd St., Suite 1702, New York, NY 10036 (212) 563-5551

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8 / August 1987