

usitt newsletter

April, 1988

Editor: Ron Olson

Vol. XXVIII No. 4

'Motley' Collection at LA Festival

Part of the UI's fabulous collection of costume and set designs by the famous Motley group is headed for a major arts festival in Los Angeles. AS part of "UK/LA'88 - A Celebration of British Arts," full-scale reproductions of costumes and sets by Motley, as well as a display of the group's original design sketches, will be exhibited from mid-March through May at the Los Angeles Theater Center, 514 South Spring Street, Los Angeles.

Funding for the exhibit comes from a \$250,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and corporate support, which the federal government will match dollar for dollar.

"This exhibit will be a centerpiece for the UK/LA Festival," says Joan Hood, the Library's Director of Development and Public Affairs. "Not only will the exhibit be there, but two of three Motley ladies, Elizabeth Montgomery and Margaret "Percy" Harris, will come from London, if health permits."

The Festival, designed to celebrate the strong ties that have developed between the United Kingdom and Southern California, includes a major retrospective of British artist David Hockney, and performances by the Academy of St. Martin's in the Field, the National Theater of Great Britain, and new production of *The Mikado*, directed by Jonathan Miller and starring Dudley Moore.

(more next column)

For this exhibit, Ms. Harris and Ms. Montgomery (the third Motley member, Sophia Harris, died several years ago) have reproduced set models from such internationally acclaimed productions as Gielgud's *Three Sisters*, Olivier and Leigh's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Redgrave and Ashcroft's *Antony and Cleopatra*. The models have been used to create full-size replicas for the exhibit. These, along with the full-scale costume reproductions, design sketches, story boards, and a videotaped interview with the two Motley members, will make the exhibit one of the major visual attractions of the festival. A brochure describing the exhibit will be available to anyone who attends. You might be able to catch this while you're at the Conference in Anaheim.

Arts-Urban Planning

"Arts and the Changing City - An Agenda for Urban Regeneration." an international symposium on the role of the arts in urban planning, will be held Oct. 18-21 in Glasgow, Scotland. It is sponsored by the British American Arts Association, a service organization which facilitates and coordinates cultural exchange between the U.S. and Great Britain. The symposium will cover a wide range of issues in which the arts impact upon urban planning and promotion; in particular, the different ways in which American and British cities approach land use, zoning, fiscal and funding arrangements for arts districts and centers, and the different emphasis on city center and neighborhood arts programs. Full details are available from the association; contact J. Jean Horstman, program director, British American Arts Association, 49 Wellington St., London WC2E 7BN, U.K., or phone 01-379-755.

Ezekiel Awards Presented

This years awards for outstanding achievement were approved by the board at the January 16, 1988 meeting. These awards are named after Margaret U. "Peggy" Ezekiel, a woman instrumental in founding the Ohio Section. The awards are given to recognize work done in design and technology in the performing arts in Ohio. The winners were:

SCENE DESIGN

Paul Shortt

The Magic Flute

Cincinnati Conservatory Of Music

COSTUME DESIGN

Chris Flaharty

Tartuffe

Oberlin Theater Institute

LIGHTING DESIGN

William Byrnes

Tartuffe

Oberlin Theater Institute

TECHNICAL DIRECTION & ENGINEERING

Steven Waxler and David Spencer

The Magic Flute

Cincinnati Conservatory of Music

TECHNICAL CRAFT

Don Jonke

Stagehand

State Theater Playhouse Square

Cleveland, OH

ARCHITECTURE

Peter van Dijk (architect)

Roger Morgan (theater consultant)

Christopher Jaffe (acoustics)

CAREER SERVICE AWARD

Henry Kurth

Designer and Educator

Case Western Reserve University

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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Business in the Arts Awards

Nominations are now open for the 1988 Business in the Arts Awards sponsored by the Business Committee for the Arts, Inc. and Forbes Magazine. Created in 1966, this is the first and only national awards program established to recognize and honor businesses, small, medium and large, for their outstanding partnerships with the arts. To date, 454 American businesses in more than 186 cities in 44 states have won the Award.

A business of any size, located anywhere in the United States, which has supported the arts during calendar year 1987 through a direct cash grant, loaned personnel, donated services and products or special tie-ins in advertising, marketing and public relations campaigns may be nominated for a Business in the Arts Award. A business, an arts organization or an individual may nominate a business by writing to: Mary Beth Serpe, Awards Administrator, Business Committee for the Arts, Inc., 1775 Broadway, Suite 510, New York, New York 10019. The nomination-deadline is May 31, 1988.

In making their decision, the judges will consider the impact of the business involvement on the arts; the effect of business involvement on the community and/or society; the originality of the business-arts partnerships; the initiative demonstrated by the business in becoming involved with the arts; the level of investment as compared to the size of the business and the total involvement of the business.

Business in the Arts Awards are given in three categories: First-Time Award to businesses that have not previously won a business in the Arts Award; Return Awards to businesses that have previously won the First-Time Business in the Arts Award; and Distinguished Achievement Awards to businesses that have won a First-Time Business in the Arts Award and two Return Business in the Arts Awards.

Theatre Library Association Award

Authors, publishers, and members of the Theatre Library Association are invited to submit nominations for the 1987 GEORGE FREEDLEY AWARD and the THEATRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD, to be presented by the Association this spring. The GEORGE FREEDLEY AWARD was established in 1968 - in memory of the late theatre historian, critic, author, and first curator of the New York Public Library Theatre Collection - to honor a work in the field of theatre published in the United States. Only books with subjects related to live performance (including vaudeville, puppetry, pantomime, the circus, etc.) will be considered for the GEORGE FREEDLEY AWARD.

The THEATRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD, which was established in 1974, honors a book published in the United States in the field of recorded performance, including motion pictures and television.

Works which are ineligible for either award include anthologies; collections of articles and essays previously published in other sources; reprints of earlier publications; works on dance, ballet, and opera; plays, scripts, or similar dramatic works. Translations of significant works, other than play texts, will be considered.

Entries are judged on the basis of scholarship, readability, and general contribution to the broadening of knowledge. No galley sheets or proofs will be accepted. Books nominated for the 1987 awards must have been published in the 1987 calendar year in the United States. If no date of publication appears on either the title page or its verso, the date must be indicated in the written nomination. First prize winners of each award will be awarded \$250.00. Those two books winning Honorable Mention will be awarded \$100.00.

City Lights Under New Ownership

City Lights, one of the largest full-production lighting service companies in the Mid-Atlantic region, was recently acquired by its president, Alan G. Jones.

Founded in 1976 by a group of lighting designers and theater technicians, City Lights has quadrupled its revenues during the last four years under Jones' leadership. The company's 20 full-time employees cover the full gamut of production lighting services.

In Jones' words, "City Lights strives for breadth and depth as a full-service production lighting company. In each of the worlds of theater, film/video, and special events, we are strong in sales, rentals, service, and production.... This cross fertilization enriches our clients and our separate departments."

For further information: City Lights, 1232 9th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 (202)289-1090.

Electro Controls to Move

Strand Lighting, Inc. announces that it is to consolidate the production and sales/marketing operations of its subsidiary division Electro Controls, Salt Lake City, with those of Strand Lighting in Rancho Dominguez, California, in order to create a single major manufacturing facility to service its North American market.

Electro Controls' Research and Development department will remain in Salt Lake City.

Strand Lighting, Inc. is a leading producer worldwide of lighting products and controls for the entertainment and architectural industries.

Have you seen the new "Job Openings" in TD&T?

USITT Publications Available

Theatre Words – A pocket sized comprehensive lexicon of theatre terms in nine languages. (English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Czech and Russian.) A Japanese supplement is also available.

Member Price: \$15.00 Supplement: \$3.50 Both: \$18.00
 Nonmember: \$17.00 Supplement: \$3.50 Both: \$20.00

Theatre Design '75 – A collection of architectural drawings depicting theatre design and architecture located primarily in the USA and Canada. It represents the work of many American Architects and Consultants.

Member Price: \$8.00 Nonmember: \$9.20

Scenography Exposition Catalogs – These catalogs include representative material from three Scenography exhibits held at the USITT annual conference during 1980, 1982, and 1984.

Member Price: 1980 & 1982 catalogs \$5.00
 1984 catalog \$6.50
 Nonmember: 1980 & 1982 catalogs \$6.00
 1984 catalog \$7.50

Bibliography of Flat Pattern Sources – A complete collection of books on Flat Patterning.

Member Price: \$2.00 Nonmember: \$3.00
 Contact: Kevin Seligman, Department of Theatre Arts,
 Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL 60115.

***NEW* Theatre Artists and Craftperson Bureau Directory** – A directory that lists individuals and organizations who are prepared to give workshops, lectures, or artist-in-residence on technical theatre.

Member Price: \$6.00 Nonmember: \$7.00

***NEW* Theatre Design and Technology/A Course Guide** – A comprehensive resource for teachers who want to introduce their students to technical theatre: **Theatre Technology and Design** offers hundreds of educational exercises for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Seven major sections – each with an introductory essay – cover theatre spaces, lighting, sound, costuming, makeup, props and scenery. Published jointly by the International Thespian Society, the United States Institute For Theatre Technology, the Secondary School Theatre Association, and the Children's Theatre Association of America.

Member Price: \$11.50 Nonmember: \$13.00

All prices listed include postage and handling.

Theatre Design and Technology Internship Clearing House – This publication provides listings of internships in the following areas: Administration, Design, Management, Technical Production, Costume Technology, Manufacturing & Sales, bound in one book.

Member Price: \$7.00 Nonmember: \$8.00

Theatre Design and Technology Back Issues – Back issues of USITT's Theatre Design and Technology Quarterly journal. Issues available from 1982 through current year.

Member Price: \$6.00 per issue Nonmember: \$7.00 per issue

***NEW* Lighting Educators List** – A fourteen page list citing North American Educators involved in teaching lighting design.

Member Price: \$5.00 Nonmember: \$6.00

***NEW* Directory of Costume Related Sources & Supplies** – A National directory vendors of costume related supplies.

Member Price: \$2.00 Nonmember: \$4.00

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ATL Announces Winner

Actors Theatre of Louisville (ATL) has announced the winner of the 1987-88 Heideman Award for the best work submitted to ATL's National One-Act Play Contest.

This year's Heideman Award recipient is Kate Snodgrass for her play *Haiku*. Ms. Snodgrass is currently teaching playwriting courses at Boston University where she is also working on her M.A. in fiction and playwriting.

Snodgrass attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and has been an actress. *Haiku* is her first play.

The \$1,000 Heideman Award is made possible through a sustaining grant given by Ted Heideman of Louisville. Snodgrass is the ninth playwright to receive the Heideman Award.

The National One-Act Play Contest, part of ATL's New Play Program, is

designed to discover the best new one-act play by an unknown or established playwright.

For information about *Haiku* or the National One-Act Play Contest, contact the literary department at Actors Theatre/316 W. Main/Louisville, KY 40202-2916/ (502) 584-1265.

Cosmak's Corner

by Bernice A. Graham

Cycles and Sears

Since Mr. and Mrs. Cosmak own and ride a motorcycle, we end up on every cycle company's, mailing list. To our surprise, we received an "AL" Specialog 24 page "Motorcycle Accessories and Apparel" catalog from... Sears. Tuck the following information somewhere for possible future and/or "futuristic" use. The headgear and body coverings have distinctive and sometimes unique characteristics. A helmet is not just a helmet. Not only colors vary in helmets. Silhouettes and amounts of enclosures vary. Examples are: The open-face helmet (with removable visor/cut on line below ears); the highway patrol-style (with visor/cut on line with ears); the open-face helmet with chin protection (with visor); the full-face helmet (with single or double-lens ratchet shields/anti-fog shields/adjustable venting system with push-button air intake regulator/with a "deluxe comfort sleeve" for chin strap to eliminate throat irritation.) Prices range from \$30 to \$120. To measure for a helmet, measure around largest part of head above ears. Examples of how sizes run are: Small (20 1/2" - 21 7/8" or hat size 6 5/8 - 6 7/8); Extra-large (23 5/8" - 24 1/2" or hat size 7 5/8 - 7 3/4). The body is protected in a variety of ways against cold, wind and rain. There are one and two piece yellow vinyl rainsuits with snap on hoods; black nylon over vinyl jumpsuits; and two piece silver-colored rainsuits that are highly reflective. There are a variety of stylish wool, leather, distressed leather and cowhide jackets. The most important garb is the "Early Warning TourRider" suit. When hit by light, the fabric "is designed to make a black jacket appear bright glowing white." This is great for the night-riding cyclist, but it could also create a unique costume for the stage. Other body items that could find their way into a theatrical production are luxurious cowhide motorcycle pants and/or cowhide chaps with heavy-duty metal zippers on outside of leg, with or without 6-inch fringe.

(more next column)

Accessories included in this catalog are cowhide caps (with or without ornamental brim), knitted hood/facemasks, fingered and half-fingered gloves and, of course, the steel-shanked and oil resistant Goodyear well-constructed 11 inch high biker's boot.

That's the way it is in the world of cycles and Sears.

Cosmak Goes to the AG Show

You as a technical-theatre-type person may ask, "What do we have to do with agriculture?" Being in the heart of one of the richest agricultural areas in the USA, Fresno's COSMAK had to visit neighboring Tulare, California's overwhelming AG SHOW. Again you say, "What the _____ do we have to do with agriculture?"

Well, COSMAK saw a couple of items which are worth mentioning from the standpoint of a technical-theatre-type person.

Getup

The GETUP, the flier says, is "the next best thing to a leg-up!" This is a two-step (9" and 18") platform used to mount and groom horses. It could be great for those shorter costumers who can't reach the top of a cutting table or to some of those high-flying costume or supplies areas or even to change light bulbs. It is a lightweight (9lbs. 12 ozs.) made of "special linear, low density polyethylene." It is strong with a broad, flat base which can hold a lot of weight and is tip-resistant. It has a molded-in hand-hold and storage box for easy portability. It comes in brown. It is offered by California Carriage and Harness Company, 1400 West 240th Street, Harbor City, CA. 90710, (213) 325-4106. This company also offers a horse-feeder molded in a similar manner. Could be great for easy access to stored nails, screws, etc. It mounts easily on wood or pipe fence or walls.

Kasco

The Kasco Protective Helmets are advertised as "world leaders in helmets that protect lungs, eyes and skin against pesticides, dusts, moulds and spores." As theatre "technical engineers" we may not be attacked by

(more next column)

some of the agricultural villains, but we certainly have our own. This is just to let you know what is available...JUST IN CASE...you need to know.

The Kasco products include: 1) A variety of protective helmets such as a 12-volt tractor-powered one for large jobs when spraying in orchards and fields; a similar one with slightly less air flow; a battery-powered one for smaller jobs such as greenhouses and nurseries; a battery-powered one for use in dusty farm and industrial buildings; a 12-volt tractor-powered one for use in dusty conditions or when combining, baling hay, etc. 2) A Turbo 1 air filtration unit for use on a tractor, truck or combine cabs with or without air conditioning. 3) Replacement filters. 4) Spray suits for protection when spraying. 5) Nitrile gloves for protection when handling a wide range of chemicals.

The photos on the fliers for Kasco products show men who look like they have come from or gone to Mars or the Moon. As costumes, they are possibilities; but, more importantly, they may in some way, some day protect one of our chemical-using-technical friends.

Kasco products are distributed by: The St. George Company Ltd. St. George, Ont., Canada NOE 1N0 Phone: (519) 442-2046 FAX: (519) 442-7191. There may be a local dealer in your area. Fresno's is Source 1, 3705 W. Beechwood, Fresno CA 93711.

Editor's Note

The news in this issue is a trifle slim, with everyone anticipating the Conference in Anaheim. You can be assured that the issues in May and June will be packed with information about Conference and future activities of the Institute.

Since this is a reduced issue, we are planning for twelve page issues over the next two months. Should you not see me in Anaheim, please make sure that you send your latest news to me before March 31.

Thank you.

Ron Olson
Editor

Cooper-Hewitt Museum Exhibi- tion Schedule

Spectacle and Illusion: Design at the Paris Opera

This exhibition features a range of colorful theatrical designs and objects associated with the legendary Paris Opera. Costumes, jewelry, set designs and models will be included. June 7 - Sept. 25, 1988

DO YOU HAVE A JOB OPENING?

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Calendar of Events

APRIL

National Association of Broadcasters
Annual Convention
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV
April 9-12.

Lighting World International
International Advanced Illumination
Exposition and Conference
Los Angeles Convention Center
Los Angeles, CA
Contact: National Expositions Co.
(212) 391-9111
April 13-15.

ABTT Trade Show '88
Riverside Studios, London
Contact: ABTT, 4 Great Pulteney St.,
London W1R 3DF, England
Tel: 0-434 3901
April 14-16.

MAY

Video Expo Los Angeles,
Los Angeles Convention Center,
Los Angeles, CA.
Contact: Barbara Dales,
Knowledge Industry publications, Inc.,
Westchester Ave., White Plains,
NY10604
(914) 328-9157;
(800) 248-KIPI outside NY.
May 9-13.

Acoustical Society of America, Seattle
Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Seattle,
WA. Contact: Dr. Murray Strasberg,
secy., Acoustical Society of America,
500 Sunnyside Blvd.,
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 349-7800
May 16-20.

Showtech '88, Berlin, West Germany.
Contact: German Chamber of Industry
and Commerce, 12/13 Suffolk St.,
London SW1Y 4HG. Tel.: 0-930 7251.
May 18-20.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 31, 1988

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SUITE #407
NEW YORK, NY 10007

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6/April 1988