

usitt sightlines

September 1992

USITT— The American Association of Design and Production Professionals in the Performing Arts

In This Issue

Executive Report.....	3
1994 Nashville Conference	3
Election Slate	4
News from the National.....	5
Classified Ads.....	7
Check Points	8

Board of Directors Meetings
7-9 August 1992

USITT Summer Meetings Held in Wichita

The summer business meetings was held August 7-9 in Wichita, KS. Two retreats were the focus of the meetings. The Commissioners met for two very long days and joined the full Board of Directors for two additional sessions to discuss our annual Conference and Stage Expo.

Lead by VP-Commissions Rick Stephens, the Commissioners reviewed and revised the draft of the new Commissioners' Manual, finalized programming for the Conference, and discussed budgets, projects, and procedures. All involved felt they accomplished a great deal. This type of planning and organizational work greatly facilitates the project work of the Commissions.

The sense of accomplishment and produc-

tivity carried over to the Conference Retreat as well. All aspects of the Conference from programming to site selection were discussed by more than 40 USITT members. The Board of Directors and Executive Committee were joined by Exhibitors Committee members Richard Barulich, John Fuller, and Sarah Spencer, so all points of view and interest areas were represented.

Pat Dolson and Diane Ferber from Association Expositions & Services, our new conference management firm, presented the results from both the Exhibitors' survey and the Attendees' survey from Seattle. The Attendees' Survey (which had over 50% return! Thank you, members!) shows that the large majority of our members do not attend other trade shows during the year and that we represent considerable purchasing power. These facts are very helpful when AE&S contacts potential exhibitors about buying booth space. The reaction to Pat and Diane was uniformly positive. Everyone was impressed by their knowledge, professionalism, and enthusiasm for Stage Expo.

The group agreed that a successful Stage Expo with more exhibitors showing a wider

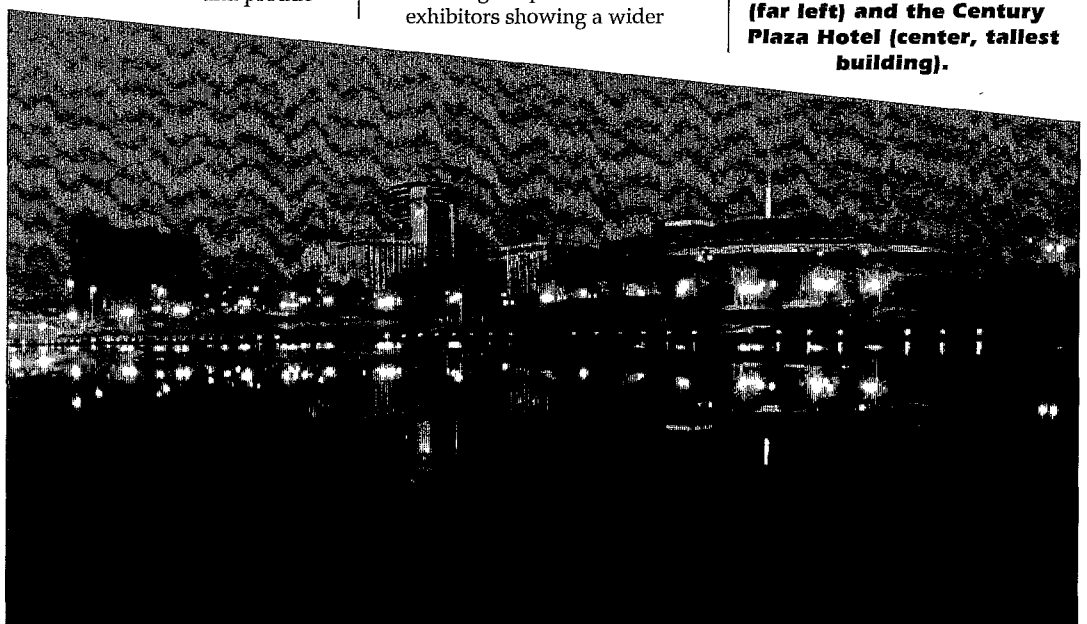
variety of products was an important goal for Stage Expo. We also looked at ways to promote more interaction between exhibitors, attendees, and programming. Many of these will be implemented in Wichita.

In particular the Commissioners devised a new scheduling matrix which features one-and-a-half hour sessions with a half-hour break between each one. This half hour will allow you to collect your thoughts or visit Stage Expo between sessions. In addition, each of the Commissions will have one evening meeting which will promote greater interaction with our members who also are exhibitors.

On the subject of programming, quality and quantity was discussed at length. We agreed that more accurate and complete descriptions of programs were necessary, and decided to have

Page 2 ▼

The Wichita skyline at dusk reveals the primary sites of the 1993 USITT Conference & Stage Expo: the Century II Convention Center (right), the Ramada Hotel (far left) and the Century Plaza Hotel (center, tallest building).



Engineering Standards

The USITT Engineering Commission is in the process of updating the pin connector configuration standards. Anyone interested in participating in this project, should contact Jerry Gorrell, Engineering Commission, 602-262-7364 or 602-837-9401. ■

It's Your Institute!

If you have questions, suggestions or professional needs, contact the USITT National Office.

Debora Kingston, Manager,
Finance & Operations

Anne S. Eliet, Manager,
Marketing & Development

USITT
10 West 19th Street, Suite 5A
New York, NY 10011

Phone: 212-924-9088
Fax: 212-924-9343. ■

Sightlines

VOLUME XXXII NUMBER 9

USITT SIGHTLINES

[ISSN 1048-955X] is published monthly (except bi-monthly May/June and July/August) by the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc., 10 West 19th Street, Suite 5A, New York, NY 10011; phone: 212-924-9088; fax: 212-924-9343. \$15 is deducted from membership dues to cover the cost of publication. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Sightlines, c/o USITT, 10 West 19th Street, Suite 5A, New York, NY 10011-4206.

SIGHTLINES is published from editorial offices at:
966 East 1030 North,
Orem, UT 84057.
Phone: 801-226-3258
Fax: 801-226-5342

Copyright © 1992 USITT, Inc.

Editor ■ Eric Fielding
Editor ■ Cecelia Fielding

Board of Directors Meetings
7-9 August 1992

USITT Summer Meetings Held in Wichita

▲ Page 1

attendees complete session evaluation forms. These evaluations will help us assess and monitor program quality.

The effort of coordinating programming for the Conference has become very complex. The need for a new position to head this area was identified. Leon Brauner, former VP-Commissions (who has returned from a year in Poland) has agreed to serve in this capacity. The exact duties and responsibilities will be defined during the next few weeks, and will be formally presented at the November meeting.

Our group also toured through the Century II Convention center and were unanimous about the high quality of the facility. Meeting rooms, exhibit Hall, concessions and theatre spaces available for programming are all in one building. Tech Expo and the new Design Exhibit, "Cover The Walls" (watch for details) are side-by-side with the Stage Expo space. No searching for exhibits tucked away in corners in Wichita! John Fuller of Colortran summed it up: "It's going to be a good Conference."

By the end of the Conference Retreat, it was clear that once again the diversity of our membership had proven to be a valuable asset. We all felt that the discussions were very productive. Everyone listened and heard what others had to say. We all came away with a better understanding of the roles each of us plays in creating a successful Conference and Stage Expo as well as recognizing the significance of each segment to the event as a whole. The spirit of cooperation and optimism born in Wichita bodes well for the future of USITT.

Membership Numbers at All Time High

In addition to the retreats, we had our usual array of Institute business meetings and Board of Directors' Meeting. VP-Marketing and Development Bill Byrnes, reported that the number of total members—3,256—is an all time high. The effects of the recession are being felt however, with some of our commercial members not renewing. Anne Eliet, USITT Manager for Marketing and Development, has begun a concerted membership drive in that area.

The Planning and Priorities Committee recommended that the Executive and Finance Committees investigate several areas with an eye towards a more efficient use of resources. They also presented a revised Mission Statement which was adopted by the Board.

The Conference Policy Committee assisted by the input of the members of the Exhibitors Committee who were present recommended Portland, OR as the site of the 1998 Conference. The Board ratified this decision.

The Board also ratified the nomination of Beverly Huggins and Jack Schmidt as Directors at Large representing our commercial exhibitors.

The Board adopted the ATHE/USITT position paper, *The Essential Relationship, Curriculum and Production*. This paper expands on and supports the *Workloads for Theatre in Higher Edu-*



cation paper which was adopted last year by ATHE and USITT. It will be published in the future. Will Bellman and Raynette Halverson Smith represented USITT in the formulation of the document.

The following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

Be it resolved that the United States Institute for Theatre Technology Board of Directors expresses its deep appreciation to Donald C. Shulman for diligent, dedicated, and devoted service to the Institute during his term as President, 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1992.

We are grateful for his contribution of time, talent, and experienced leadership.
—Wichita, 9 August 1992.

Be it resolved that the United States Institute for Theatre Technology Board of Director's salute Richard M. Devin for his extraordinary tenure of 12 consecutive years as a member of the Executive Committee.

The Institute has benefitted from his wisdom, insight, and calm demeanor; and looks forward to many years of his continued presence and input as a senior statesman and committee member extraordinaire!
—Wichita, August 9, 1992.

More details of these and other activities of the USITT Summer Business Meetings will come to you in future issues.

Saturday night, Steve and Janet Wolf hosted our entire group for an informal dinner in their lovely home. After two days of being closeted in the meetings rooms at the Ramada, their patio and warm hospitality was a delightful treat. Many thanks to Steve and Janet.

I think the entire weekend is best summarized in the words of long time Contributing Member and exhibitor, Richard Barulich, "I can't tell you how much respect I have for all of you. You're dedicated, work hard—and are good!!" I share Richard's sentiments completely. ■

—Sarah Nash Gates

Richard Durst, Vice
President-Conferences

The Executive Report

1994 USITT Conference & Stage Expo is Moving to Nashville!!

At the August Board of Directors Meeting, USITT approved the rescheduling and relocation of the 1994 Annual Conference and Stage Expo from Washington, DC to Nashville, TN. We will be using the Nashville Convention Center with the Stouffers Nashville Hotel as the headquarters, 13-17 April 1994.

We were notified in June that the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) had rescheduled its 1994 convention in Las Vegas. Their dates would have required a significant number of our major exhibitors to make a choice between USITT and NAB. Given the size and scope of the NAB show, it was left to us to make a change.

We first contacted Tom Casella, the 1994 Conference Chair, and the Chesapeake section leadership to apprise them of the situation. Given their significant advance preparation, our first option was to find other dates at a location within their section boundaries. We had been notified by the Sheraton Washington (the 1994 headquarters hotel) that they had no alternative dates available. Our new conference management firm, Association Expositions & Services, researched every feasible site within the section and found no alternatives for us. In order to preserve our geographic rotation around North America, AE&S then looked for other eastern venues with dates available. After

an exhaustive search and much negotiation, we have notified Nashville of our intent to bring the 1994 conference to their city.

Nashville is an attractive and exciting location. The convention center and Stouffers are excellent properties, newly built and decorated. I had visited the site as a potential location for our 1997 conference and ranked it as the best alternative for that year, so I was very pleased to find it available for 1994. In addition, there are excellent overflow hotels, the rates are very competitive, the night life is superb and we'll have access to the Grand Ole Opry, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, and several other outstanding locations for seminars and tours. While we are disturbed at not being able to go to DC in 1994—and are extremely apologetic to our Chesapeake section for the hours already spent in preparation for the conference—we so very fortunate to have found such a superlative alternative location.

I have perhaps overstepped my authority, but on behalf of USITT I have assured our Chesapeake friends that we will make a strong effort to schedule our next eastern venue, 1997, within their section, assuming we can find a suitable time and site. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors are extremely appreciative of the Chesapeake section's efforts in preparation for 1994 and their continued support of USITT and share their disappointment at these circumstances.

We are now faced with gearing up a different committee within a very short time span. Please read elsewhere in this issue about our request for volunteers to staff the 1994 conference. This is a crucial time for us to band together and pull this one off. ■

Richard Durst, Vice
President-Conferences

1994 Nashville Conference

Volunteers Needed!! Nashville Confer- ence Committee

In the last issue of *Sightlines* we asked for volunteers to fill out the conference committee for Las Vegas in 1995. The results were spectacular and I have received many phone calls from people who want to help. Now, as you've read elsewhere in this issue, we need to establish the entire committee for our relocated 1994 conference in Nashville, TN.

This is an outstanding conference location with a new convention center and lovely Stouffers Hotel attached to it. This is an excellent way for you to get involved with the running of our largest USITT activity: the annual Conference and Stage Expo.

This is the first announcement of our needs, so *all* positions on the committee are available. The following is a comprehensive listing of the positions:

Conference Chair
Programming Chair
Logistics Chair
Local Programming
Local Publicity
Pre-Post Conference Events
International Guest Liaison
Media Resources
Registrar
Office Manager
Production Coordinator
Student Coordinator
Food Functions Coordinator
Tours/Transportation
Trouble Shooters (4)

The committee will need to become active immediately. Previous conference experience would be helpful, especially in the first three

Contributing Members

Associated Theatrical
Contractors
Colortran, Inc.
Elgin Civic Center
Gerriets International, Inc.
Great American Market
IATSE Local 58
Interstate Consolidation
Service
KM Fabrics, Inc.
Kryolan Corporation
Masque Sound &
Recording Corp.
Rosco Laboratories, Inc.
Sapsis Rigging, Inc.
Samuel H. Scripps
Strand Lighting
Syracuse Scenery & Stage
Lighting Co., Inc.
Wenger Corporation ■

New C&S Members

Sightlines welcomes the following new or returning Sustaining Members of USITT—**Lite-Trol Service Co., Inc.** and **Kenneth Snipes Engineering/Design.**

■■■■
***Sightlines* extends its sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the all the Contributing and Sustaining Members of the Institute for the valued and ongoing support. ■**

Sustaining Members

Altman Stage Lighting, Inc.
Automatic Devices Company
Backstage, Inc.
Baer Fabrics
Barbizon Delta Corporation
Barbizon Electric Company, Inc.
Bash/Production Associates
BN Productions, Inc.
Cal Western Paints, Inc.
Canvas Specialty Company
Centre Theatre Group
Chicago Spotlight, Inc.
J. R. Clancy, Inc.
Clear-Com Intercom Systems
W. H. "Deacon" Crain
Crouse-Hinds/Cam-Lok Products
Custom Rigging Systems
Desco Theatrical Equipment, Inc.
Designlab Chicago
Desisti Lighting Equipment
DIMATEC, S.A.
East Coast Theatre Supply
Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.
Electronics Diversified, Inc.
Entertainment Technology, Inc.
FM Productions
Foy Invention Enterprises, Inc.
GTE/Sylvania, Inc.
Glantre Engineering Limited
Goodspeed Opera House
Grand Stage Lighting
H & H Specialties, Inc.
A. Haussmann International
Hawkeye Scenic Studios, Inc.
Hoffend & Sons, Inc.
Hollywood Lights, Inc.
Hubbell, Inc.
Hudson Scenic Studios, Inc.
Independent Theatrical Installations, Inc.
Irwin Seating Company
JCN
Joel Theatrical Rigging Contractors, Ltd.
Joeun Technics
Joyce/Dayton Corporation

Jean A. Montgomery,
USITT Secretary

Board of Directors News

The Board of Directors of USITT is pleased to announce a recent change in the By-Laws that promotes the addition of two new Directors at Large representing the commercial exhibitors. "These directors shall be nominated by the Exhibitors Committee and elected by the Board of Directors. Terms of office shall be two years with one director elected in even numbered years, the other in odd numbered years." The first two directors to be seated are Jack Schmidt (two-year term), and Beverly Huggins (one-year term).

Beverly is co-founder and chief financial officer of SFX Design, Inc., in Columbus, OH. She holds a BA in English from North Texas State University and an MA in Secondary Education from Ohio State University. She feels that 16 years of teaching experience with juvenile delinquents and emotionally disturbed teenagers has given her an excellent background with which to work in the demanding areas of theatre, film, and the entertainment business. For SFX Design, Beverly's

Nashville Conference ▼

positions listed. It is crucial that volunteers be either on Callboard or have access to a computer and modem so we can get the committee linked by electronic mail, especially, again, for the three chairs.

We will provide you with a hotel room for the duration of the conference if you are not from the local area, and some other amenities that will give you some recompense for the hours of service donated. The committee leaders will need to do a site inspection in the near future, at USITT expense.

Please help.

Dick Durst
School of Fine Arts
University of Minnesota, Duluth
Duluth, MN 55812
218-726-7261, fax: 218-726-8503 ■

responsibilities include new product concepts, public relations, technical writer, sales, personnel, and financial guru.

Jack is currently product manager of the Spotlight Division for Strong International Electric Corporation in Omaha, NE. A member of IATSE Local 42 since 1978, he holds an MA in technical production/design from the University of Northern Colorado (1970). After graduation, he became technical director of the Omaha Community Playhouse for five years before becoming a freelance designer/technical director, working in concert touring, theatre, dance, television, and pageants in the Midwest. Prior to joining Strong's sales staff in 1985, Jack served as technical director for Opera/Omaha for three years and designer/production manager for Omaha Ballet for ten years, during which time he also did freelance dance lighting designs for productions in Louisiana, Michigan, and Indiana. Jack has been involved in various committees of the Institute for some 20 years.

The Exhibitors Committee has been reconstituted over the past two years so that the Institute can be more responsive to the needs and desires of our corporate members, our exhibitors, and our advertisers. Issues that the committee will undertake include suggestions for scheduling exhibit hours at conferences; long-range planning for Stage Expo; managing anything that affects the exhibitor on the Stage Expo floor; specific exhibitor representation on the Board of Directors of USITT; and bringing to the attention of the Institute any other issues and concerns of the exhibitors, advertisers, and commercial members of the Institute. The Exhibitors Committee is also designed to serve as an advocate to the Board.

If you are interested in taking part and having your concerns and issues addressed in this particular forum, please contact Stuart Goldberg, chair of the Exhibitors Committee, or any of the committee members: Richard Barulich, John Fuller, Bill Groener, Mary Nitzburg, Ron Probst, Ron Ranson, and Sarah Spencer. ■

Richard Devin,
Nominations Committee

Election Slate Announced

The following slate was announced by the Nominations Committee:

President-elect:
Richard Durst
Vice President-Commissions:
Richard Stephens
Vice President-Projects:
Stephanie Young
Secretary:
Jean Montgomery
Directors-at-Large:
Lisa Aitken
Whitney Blausen
William Flynn
Stephen Gilliam
Deborah Goldberg
Michael Gros
Larry Hill
Elynmarie Kazle
Bill Meyer
Charlie Richmond
Jimmie Robinson
Raynette Halverson Smith

Additional nominations for each elective office may be presented by petition, supported by no fewer than fifty (50) signatures verified as those of members in good standing in the Corporation. Additional nominations shall be accompanied by written approval of the nominee indicating willingness and ability to meet the obligations of the office/position as defined in the By-Laws, and a brief biographical description. Petitions must reach the Chair of Nominations by November 1.

Nominees for all offices and directorships shall have been Individual or Student members of USITT or the individual designated as the voting representative of an Organizational, Sustaining, or Contributing membership for at least one (1) year as of September 1 of the year of their nomination. All voting members of the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing of the Institute and a Regional Section for the year in which they are elected and for all the time they serve. ■

Diane Ferber, AE&S, Stage Expo Account Manager

USITT Stage Expo Update

USITT Stage Expo Survey Report: If you attended the USITT Conference and Stage Expo in Seattle, you may have received and completed a survey about your involvement in specifying and purchasing exhibited products. If so, thank you for your feedback!

The response was tremendous. We have learned that USITT Stage Expo is an active part of your conference experience, and we are communicating to exhibitors the level of business that is conducted on the show floor: 92% of you asked for literature to be sent to you; 65% of you found at least one new supplier; 14% of you requested that an exhibitor sales executive visit your organization; and 7% of you actually signed a purchase order on the show floor!

You also responded to the survey with product categories and even specific vendors you wanted to see at USITT Stage Expo in the future. We are actively pursuing these suggestions. If you would like to suggest a product or vendor for our list of prospects, let us know. (Our fax number is 203-325-5000.)

We want to make sure that USITT Stage Expos provides you with an opportunity to see the tools you need to support your endeavors. ■

Anne Eliet, USITT Marketing & Development

News from the National

Memorial Notices

Francis William Cox

The founder of Sacramento Theatrical Lighting, Francis William Cox, died in March after a long illness. He was 77 years old.

Cox founded the company in his garage in 1947. He was active in the artistic life of the Sacramento area for many years, particularly the Sacramento Ballet, and for 20 years was involved with the Sacramento Mounted Posse. He was also a founder of IATSE Local #50.

John W. Cox, his son, now operates Sacramento Theatrical Lighting. Sacramento Theatrical Lighting was a Contributing Member of the Institute from 1988-1992, and is now a Sustaining Member.

George Gill, Sr.

George Gill, Sr., co-founder of Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc., died July 14. He was nearly "born in a trunk" in 1914 when his parents were playing in a Chicago repertory theatre. After graduating from New York University, Gill worked on Broadway until World War II, when he served as a Seabee in the US Navy. He then returned to New York, where he became instrumental in developing television lighting equipment and practices. He supervised several projects for the 1964 World's Fair and the Metropolitan Opera House.

In 1967, Gill moved to Miami and established Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc. He was an active member of several industry associations, including the Institute.

Gill is survived by his wife, Muriel; sons George, Jr. and David, and granddaughter Laura. Stage Equipment and Lighting and Gill have been valued members of USITT since 1982. In 1984, Gill received the Institute's Thomas DeGaetani Award in 1984, "given to honor a lifetime contribution to the performing arts community in a particular region of the country." He will be greatly missed.

Other News

USITT Lifetime Member Samuel H. Scripps presented the 1992 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award to choreographer Donald H. McKayle. Scripps established the award for body-of-work achievements in choreography in 1981; past winners have included Martha Graham, Paul Taylor, and Twyla Tharp. The award ceremony took place at ADF's summer home, Duke University's Page Auditorium, on July 28. An article about the award and McKayle appeared in the New York Times on June 30.

Sustaining Member Productions Arts Lighting, Inc. is busy BAM-ing tours. Not only have they supplied the complete lighting package for the Brooklyn Academy of Music/St. Paul's Ordway Music Theatre tour of *Richard III* starring Ian McKellen and directed by Richard Eyre, but also for the world tour (Europe, Japan, Australia, and Brooklyn) of Robert Wilson's *Eisenstein on the Beach*.

Alicia Annas, long-time member of the Institute, was recently elected a Fellow of the Costume Society of America. Annas received this honor at the Society's annual awards dinner in San Antonio for "a minimum of ten years of outstanding service to the society combined with achievement of merit within the many facets of the field of costume."

Whitney Blausen, former USITT Director-at-Large and current administrator of Theatre Development Fund's Costume Collection, was recently elected to the board of the Costume Society of America. She has been a CSA member since 1977.

Special offer on an important new book! Save more than \$15 (33%) on Josef Svoboda's forthcoming memoirs, *The Secret of Theatrical Space*, edited and translated by Jarka H. Burian. The over-sized hardcover volume extends to 224 pages and includes 150 excellent reproduc-

Sustaining Members

Lehigh Electric Products, Inc.
Leprecon/CAE, Inc.
Lighting Associates Templates
Lighting & Electronics, Inc.
Limelight Productions, Inc.
Lite-Trol Service Co., Inc.
Little Stage Lighting
Lycian Stage Lighting
The Magnum Companies, Inc.
Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.
Mid-West Scenic & Stage Equipment Co., Ltd.
Musson Theatrical, Inc.
Mutual Hardware Corp.
NSI Corporation
Norcostco, Inc.
Olesen Company
Pook Diemont & Ohl, Inc.
Production Arts Lighting, Inc.
Protech Theatrical Services, Inc.
Quality Stage Drapery
Richmond Sound Design, Ltd.
Rigging Innovators
Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics
Sacramento Theatrical Lighting
Secoa
Select Ticketing Systems, Inc.
SFX Design, Inc.
Shopworks Incorporated
Showtech, Inc.
SICO, Inc.
Kenneth Snipes Engineering/Design
Spotlight, S.R.L.
Stagecraft Industries, Inc.
Stage Equipment & Lighting, Inc.
Stageright Corporation
Stage Right Entertainment, Inc.
Stageworks Production Supply, Inc.
Strong International Electric Corporation
Sunbelt Scenic Studios, Inc.
Systems Design Associates, Inc.
Technical Art "Works"
Texas Scenic Co., Inc.

Sustaining Members

Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.
Theatrical Services & Supplies, Inc.
James Thomas Engineering
Tiffin Scenic Studios, Inc.
TMB Associates
Tobins Lake Studio
Tomcat USA, Inc.
Union Connector Co., Inc.
United Stage Equipment, Inc.
Veam
Vincent Lighting Systems Co.
Walt Disney Imagineering
Weber Lighting Service, Inc.
I. Weiss & Sons, Inc. ■

Sightlines Ads

Sightlines Classified Ads are \$1 a word with a \$50 minimum per ad.

For more information on advertising in **Sightlines** and/or **Theatre Design & Technology**, contact:

Susan Murphy
2706 Brookhaven Drive
Yardley, PA 19067
Phone & fax: 215-321-6880 ■

Women in Theatre Project

The Tech Production Commission wishes to remind women who might be interested in becoming part of the networking project "Women in Theatre" that they may add their names to the list or receive a complimentary copy of the current directory by contacting the project chair, Happy Robey.

The directory currently has more than 100 names of women from all areas of production, including business, education, technical direction, design, and others. Contact Happy to get your name added to the list. Get involved.

Happy is in the process of relocating in Gainesville, FL. Her new phone number will appear in future issues of *Sightlines*. At present the following contact information is available: Happy Robey, 3455 NW 50th St., Gainesville, FL 32605. ■

Anne Eliet, USITT
Marketing & Development

News from the National

▲ Page 5

tions of Svoboda's work. A sneak preview of the book will come directly to you soon in your fall issue of *TD&T*. But don't wait to take advantage of this special offer. The USITT exclusive pre-published price of \$29.95 (published at \$45) is good only on orders received by 25 November 1992. *The Secret of Theatrical Space* would make a welcome holiday gift to someone who appreciates design, or a distinguished addition to your own theatre library. Write Applause Theatre Books, USITT Offer, 211 West 47th Street, New York, NY 10023. To order by phone, call 800-937-5557; or by fax, 615-793-3915.

There have been several phone inquiries to the National Office over the past few months about how to contact government officials to let them know how you feel about the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts, proposed changes in US Mail regulations regarding not-for-profit corporations, etc. This information was made available to us by the American Arts Alliance.

Contact your representative (or any representatives on the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the Interior) by writing: The Honorable [last name], US House of Representatives, Washington, DC. 20515. The proper opening salutation is "Dear Representative [last name]" or "Dear Mr. Chairman" (if appropriate). By telegram: call Western Union at 1-800-325-6000; if you request a priority "political opinion message" for \$9.95 you can send 20 words which will be at Capitol Hill with 10 minutes. By phone: the US Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121. If you are a constituent, some House offices will give their fax number out to you. Jesse Helms' fax number is unlisted; I've already tried.

There are several Congressional recesses each year. The best chance

of finding your Representative in your district is on weekends, or:

- Early February for one week (Lincoln/Washington Birthdays)
- March or April for one week (Easter)
- Memorial Day for one week
- Late June to early July for two weeks (Independence Day)
- August to September for one month (summer recess)
- Congress officially adjourns in October for the year, but in actuality this rarely happens before late November/early December.

Current Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior:

Democrats

Sidney Yates, IL, *Chair*
John P. Murtha, PA
Norman D. Dicks, WA
Les AuCoin, OR
Tom Bevill, AL
Chester G. Atkins, MA

Republicans

Ralph Regula, OH, *Ranking Member*
Joseph M. McDade, PA
Bill Lowery, CA
Joe Skeen, NM

At the time this column was written, the House had voted to keep NEA funding for 1993 at \$176,000,000, the same level as 1992. The new fiscal year begins October 1. The day before the funding vote, the House defeated a bill moving that the NEA be dismantled; the vote was 329 to 85.

Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) is holding its fall auditions and job placement service at the Best Western American Hotel in Atlanta, GA. The job contact service (for all non-acting jobs) is Saturday, September 12, 11 am to 6 pm and Sunday, September 13, 9 am to 5 pm. People interested in signing up for the job service may do so onsite. SETC's 44th Annual Conference is 3-7 March 1993 in Arlington, VA. For more information, write SETC at PO Box 9868, Greensboro NC 27429-0868, or call 919-272-3645. ■

John W. Fuller,
Exhibitors Committee

Exhibitors Committee Report

The jet touched down and the blaring sun of the great plains filled my eyes through the airplane window. I was in Wichita, Kansas for the first time in my life. I was trying my best to keep an open mind about this whole trip...

As a member of the newly formed Exhibitors Committee, a representative of a long-standing Contributing Member, a Vice-Commissioner of the Lighting Commission, and someone known to express my opinion, I had been asked by Sarah Nash Gates to contribute to a Board discussion about the Conference & Stage Expo.

Exhibitors, vendors, salesmen—or whatever you care to call them—had been forgotten. Spending tens of thousands of dollars every year to participate in Stage Expo, as well as our annual dues, frankly, we received little value in return. This discussion—locked in a ballroom in downtown Wichita—was supposed to solve this growing schism.

I was doubtful.

Doubtful about this group's willingness to listen. Doubtful about any willingness to change.

Boy, was I surprised. To make a long story short, I left the meeting enthused. You see, exhibitors *do* have something to offer USITT. Years of experience in our fields. Willingness to learn and listen. But you—USITT—must understand, like every other attendee, we seek *value* in our participation in the conferences.

Exhibitors do not expect to walk away from this show with our "order books" filled. We want to network, meet new faces, learn what the industry is doing and what it wants. This is how we succeed as a business.

I left Wichita with the belief that this group—the ones responsible for the future of USITT—wants to improve the quality of everyone's experience in Wichita and into the future.

I tell you what: I'll be in Wichita to see. ■

Publication Notes

September Special

Whether you are planning your 1993 entry for the 4th Biennial Theatre Technology Exhibit, or you are just curious—the catalogues from the first three Theatre Technology Exhibits are on sale at a reduced price from the National Office.

Each catalog contains step-by-step instructions for the techniques displayed at the 1987, '89, and '91 Conferences, 94 processes in all.

Highlights of the catalogs include:

1991 Expo—Boston

- Electromagnet Scenery Locks
- A Safe Lamp-Oil Torch
- A Convertible Steel Platform Technique That Really Works
- Silk Turned Stretchy

1989 Expo—Calgary

- A Period Motorcycle
- Xerox Transfers for Fabric
- The Fastest Wood Grain in Town
- Weight Bearing Pivots for Turntables

1987 Expo—Minneapolis

- PVC Trees
- Focusable Speaker Hanger
- Electromagnetic Clamp
- A Spring-Loaded Knife

Until 30 September 1992, you can purchase the Expo Catalogs for only \$4 each. (Regular price, \$6). This offer is open to USITT Members only! Send a check or money order, in US funds, to Expo Special, USITT, 10 West 19th Street, 5A, New York, NY 10011, or call 212-924-9088 to charge your order to your Visa or Mastercard. Please specify which catalog(s) you are interested in. Include \$3 for the first and 75¢ for each additional catalog to cover the shipping and handling. (International shipping is \$5 for the first catalog and \$1.50 for each additional catalog.)

See the insert in this issue of Sightlines for more information and an application for the 1993 exhibit.

—Debora Kingston

Job Search Suggestions

If you are looking for job opportunities, start with USITT Sightlines and the "Jobs" listing on CallBoard. Also, remember that your USITT membership entitles you to THEatre JOBLIST for only \$36. The JOBLIST contains jobs in costume, lighting, scenic and sound design, as well as teaching, engineering, production management, and arts administration. For a one-year subscription, make your check payable to THEatre SERVICE, and mail to THEatre SERVICE, PO Box 15282, Evansville, IN 47716.

The next place to explore is your local library; jobs in academia are listed in "The Chronicle of Higher Education." Academic and other artistic and technical jobs (such as resident and/or show-by-show lighting, scenic and costume designers; artistic, managing and executive directors; technical and administrative jobs; positions with service organizations, talent agencies and producers; all levels of undergraduate and graduate professorships; internships for winter and summer seasons with theatre, music and dance companies) are listed in "Artsearch." For an annual subscription to "Artsearch" in the US States or Canada, send a \$48 check or money order to Theatre Communications Group, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017, Attn: Order Department.

Another source for available jobs is your local or state arts council. These agencies usually receive job descriptions on a regular basis and make listings available to the general public.

If you live near your alma mater, it's library or job placement center often keeps jobs listed and makes periodicals available. If not, many colleges and universities make their job resource centers (counselling, resume consulting, etc.) available to non-alumni for a nominal fee. ■

—Debora Kingston

Classified Ads

Operations Manager

The University of Kansas Lied Center seeks full-time operations manager. Required: bachelor's degree with major coursework in technical theatre, arts management, public administration, or related field; and/or any combination of coursework, experience, and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. Preferred: experience in principles and practices of performing arts facilities and technical theatre operation; experience in building management, including technical theatre supervision. Salary range: \$30-33,000. Preferred starting date: November 1. Send letter of interest, resume, and three letters of recommendation to J.Z. Davis, 410 Murphy Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-8812 or call 913-864-3469 for further information. First review of materials on 15 September 1992. EO/AA employer. ■

Technical Director

The University of Kansas Lied Center seeks full-time technical director. Two to four years experience in technical theatre management; experience in supervision with strong interpersonal communication skills and a team approach to management required. Preferred qualifications: bachelor's degree or equivalent in theatre with emphasis in technical theatre. Salary range: \$24-26,000. Preferred starting date: November 1. Send letter of interest, resume, and three letters of recommendation to J. Z. Davis, 410 Murphy Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-8812 or call 913-864-3469 for further information. First review of materials on 15 September 1992. EO/AA employer. ■

YOUR USITT MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO: Discounts at Manhattan Hotels



Paramount

235 West 46th Street
(Between Broadway & 8th Avenue)

The Paramount is on the site of Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe nightclub, located in the heart of the theatre district. USITT members are guaranteed rates of \$115 plus tax per night, single or double occupancy. The hotel also has a "24-hour sports room" and a supper club on the premises, as well as a Dean and DeLuca shop next door. For reservations at this special rate, call 800-225-7474 or 212-764-7474. Your reservations must be made directly with the hotel to get this rate, and be sure to identify yourself as a USITT member.

Milford Plaza

270 West 45th Street
(Entrance on Eighth Avenue)

The Milford Plaza is around the corner from the Paramount. For USITT members in 1992, the single cost is \$75, and the double cost is \$85, plus tax. If you are travelling with a tax-exempt group, the hotel requests that you bring a tax-exempt certificate with you to present at check-in. To make a reservation, call 212-869-3600 and ask for the theatrical rate.

Doral Court

130 East 39th Street
(Near Madison Avenue)

The Doral Court is a small, quiet hotel on Murray Hill, within easy walking distance of the Research Library of the NY Public Library and the Morgan Library. The rooms are good-sized, sunny, and guests are able to use the Fitness Center on Park Avenue, around the corner. USITT members receive a 20% discount on single or double occupancy rooms (rates do tend to be cheaper for weekend stays). For reservations, call 212-685-1100 and identify yourself as a USITT member.



Stress & Wellness
Strategies**Check
Points**

College students today often experience considerable personal and school-related stress. The process of learning and training in the arts, and theatre is also stressful to the student. In addition to the pressures to achieve, compete, and work out a path to professional success, students must cope with a variety of personal pressures and situations.

Studies indicate that in a class of 100 college students with an equal number of men and women, at least

- 30 students will have divorced parents
- 15 students will have a substance-abusing parent
- 10 students themselves will have a substance abuse problem
- 15 students will be victims of rape or sexual abuse
- six female students will have an eating disorder
- four male students will be victims of sexual abuse
- three female students will become pregnant during their college years.

Students sometimes act out aggressively or self-destructively in an attempt to juggle the demands of their college and personal lives. Strong feelings of anger, depres-

sion, and anxiety are common. Sometime just one added situation or stressor can precipitate a crisis.

The purpose of this article is to encourage those who are faculty or professional staff members within a college/academy situation to learn more about student stress and to find helpful ways to respond to students who are having problems.

Students in distress search for solutions, some of which are often ineffective. These attempts to cope with and alleviate stress range from substance abuse (legal and illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco), eating disorders, aggressive behavior, withdrawal from others, loss of contact with reality, and even suicidal thinking and behavior.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 18 to 24 (accidents are the leading cause). The incidence of suicide in young people has increased 200% in the past 30 years. Abuse of alcohol and other drugs increases the risk of both accidents and suicidal behavior in college students. Suicidal behavior is often concealed or denied. In fact, many accidents among young people may be unacknowledged or undetected suicides or suicide attempts.

If the behavioral warning signs of student distress are detected early, there is a good chance that a problem can be addressed and that more serious negative behavior can be avoided.

Have you ever noticed some of the many warning signs? A student

misses an exam and comes to you crying, requesting a make-up due to "personal problems." A student attends class sporadically, sleeps during class, is withdrawn, appears exhausted, and doesn't bother to turn in assignments. A student seems agitated and restless in class, is constantly argues with you, and is shunned by classmates. A student in your design class is preoccupied with themes of death and despair. These are a few examples of behavioral warning signs that may indicate emotional distress.

The decision about when to intervene and try to assist a student is difficult. Most faculty and staff are limited by time and the number of students encountered. Also, it is impossible to serve as surrogate parents, and students need to learn to manage their own lives. But it's important to provide some level of guidance and advice to students in distress.

When you observe any distress warning sign, keep these options in mind: Stay calm and attempt to talk privately with the student. Indicate your interest and concern. Based on your observations, give the student feedback on his or her behavior and its negative consequences. Make this feedback constructive rather than critical. If appropriate, encourage the student to seek professional help. If the student is not receptive to referral, call a support service on campus for consultation.

—Stan Abbott

Calendar

- 6-9 September 1992 ▪ PLASA Light & Sound Show, London, England ▪ Contact: PLASA, 081-994-9880
- 2-4 October 1992 ▪ CITT Conference, Banff, Alberta ▪ Contact: CITT, 403-220-4905
- 21-24 October 1992 ▪ 30th Conference on Outdoor Drama, El Paso, TX ▪ Contact: Scott Parker, 919-962-1328
- 8-11 November 1992 ▪ IAAM Crowd Management Seminar, East Rutherford, NJ ▪ Contact: IAAM, 201-935-5811
- 19-21 November 1992 ▪ USITT Winter Business Meetings, Dallas, TX ▪ Contact: USITT National Office, 212-924-9088
- 19-21 April 1993 ▪ ShowLight '93, Bradford, England ▪ Contact: Barbara Leach, 0532-43-8283
- 17-20 March 1993 ▪ USITT Conference & Stage Expo, Wichita, KS ▪ Contact: USITT National Office, 212-924-9088 ■

Curtain Call

The deadline for submitting material for inclusion in the next issue of **Sightlines**, the October 1992 issue, is **Saturday, 5 September 1992.** ■

sightlines

U. S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC.
10 West 19th Street, Suite 5A, New York, NY 10011

Second Class
Postage
PAID
New York, NY
and additional
mailing offices

David Rodger
Broadway Press
12 West Thomas Street
Box 1037
Shelter Island NY 11964

