



Stageworks

The monthly electronic newsletter for members of the Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology / Institut canadien des technologies scénographiques.

INDEX In this month's issue:

- p1 **BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES**
- p3 **FROM CALLBOARD**
– Wardrobe Workshop Makeover!
- p4 **Upcoming events and membership news**

CITT/ICTS National Office will be closed from August 8 to 28 2005 while we attend the Annual Conference in Calgary and enjoy a nice summer break.

Le bureau national sera fermé du 8 au 28 août. De retour le 29. Merci!

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Deadline to submit articles: the 15th of each month. Please submit articles (WORD format only) at citt@citt.org.

For advertising rates and submitting ad material, please contact the National Office at 613-482-1165 or citt@citt.org

Opinions expressed are those of the individuals writing and are not necessarily endorsed by CITT/ICTS. Please verify with your local authorities before applying any of the information presented.

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES CITT/ICTS Rendez-vous 2005

August 11 -14 Calgary Alberta
Pre-conference workshops: August 9-10
Post-conference workshop August 15-16



There is still time to register for the **CITT/ICTS 15th Annual Conference and Trade Show**: four full days of sessions, tours, social events and networking. Highlights of some of the sessions and tours planned for the upcoming CITT/ICTS Rendez-vous include:

Thursday, August 11 — CITT/ICTS Education Forum - Inside the Box, Looking Out: Panellists from across the country gather to discuss this year's theme: **Teaching Creativity**, inspired by conversations during last year's Forum in Montreal and by Steven J. Tepper, author of *The Creative Campus: How Do We Measure Up?*

Friday, August 12 starts with the **New Product Breakfast** where presenters are given 5 minutes to talk about their new product.

This is followed by 4 different tours:

Tour 1 — Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium and The Grand Culture House

The Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium has recently undergone a \$35M renovation after 50 years of operation. Mechanical systems, sound and acoustics, and sightlines were the major focus of the renovations. No cameras please.

The Grand Culture House was a vaudeville theatre turned into a movie theatre turned into a golf practice range. It is now undergoing renovations to turn it back into a performance space while retaining some of the former architectural elements in a deconstructionist style.

Tour 2 — GAPS and Valentine Armouries

GAPS was formed by David Evans and Marty Trevis in 1993. Originally a garden statuary and antiques store, demand for a rentals department prompted a new division for the pair. The business expanded rapidly with the purchase of the Livent assets and has continued to grow to become the premier prop shop and event decorators in Alberta. The name GAPS is an acronym from those early days, Garden Antiquities Prop Shop. We continue to offer quality props and décor to our clients. www.gapsprops.com 4801 1st St SE

Valentine Armouries was started by Robert Valentine over 25 years ago. After discovering metal sculpturing, he immediately began to fulfil his boyhood dream to create his own suit of armour. Over the years his range of armour has grown substantially, but he continues to express his artistic passion and create beautiful works of art. "Our philosophy at VA is that replica armour should look as close to the originals as possible. So under Rob's artful eye, we strive to perfect the templates, techniques, and the craftsmanship to achieve the quality of armours of the past." www.varmouries.com 4120 8th St SE

Tour 3 — Tour of the sound renovations at the Jack Singer Concert Hall

Have a look at the Jack Singer Concert Hall, which recently underwent a \$1M upgrade to its sound system.

Tour 4 — Multi-venue tour of the EPCOR CENTRE for Performing Arts

Backstage tour of the five diverse venues in the performing arts centre.

Friday afternoon is dedicated to the **CITT/ICTS Trade Show** to be held in the Palomino Room at Calgary's Stampede Park. List of exhibitors to date include:

- AC Lighting inc
- Christie Lites
- CITT/ICTS
- ETC/CETEC Group
- ESTA
- Gerr Audio
- JD International
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Irwin Seating Company Inc.
- Leviton Manufacturing
- Osram Sylvania Ltd
- Pathway Connectivity Inc.
- Production Lighting
- Rosco Laboratories Ltd.
- Show Distribution Group
- Soundcraft Canada
- StageStep
- Staging Concepts
- Strand Lighting (Canada) Inc.
- Tascam - TEAC Professional Division
- TELEX Communications Inc.
- Theatre Wireless
- Wenger Corporation
- With still more to come!

Saturday, August 13 beginnings with the **ETCP Candidate Information Session** breakfast with presenters Tim Hansen and Bill Sapsis. Currently, ESTA (Entertainment Services and Technology Association) is bringing the industry together to begin work on the development and implementation of the Entertainment Technician Certification Program. ETCP will include the creation of exams based upon identified bodies of knowledge, the conducting of those examinations, the awarding of certifications, and re certifying individuals.

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Two key areas have been identified for initial development; electrical skills and rigging skills. Examinations are currently being developed by entertainment industry experts working closely with the psychometricians using nationally recognized criteria for professional certification bodies. Representatives will discuss the examination process, information, and schedules, and answer questions from the audience.

Sessions programmed for Saturday and Sunday include:

Line Array vs. Conventional Cluster

(Double Session) *Presenter: Gerr Audio* Design process for the Jack Singer concert hall. Focus on predictive versus actual measurement.

Stage Weapons

Presenter: JP Fournier Fight director JP Fournier will present a brief history of arms and armour for stage use, including period styles and possible suppliers.

Wireless Dimmers

Presenter: James Smith and Ian Phillips Wireless remote control makes it easy to put a lamp, motor, or solenoid anywhere in the house, on or off stage. This seminar provides insight and assistance with wireless techniques, battery types, charging and charge cycles, safe operation of DC systems at high amperages, and more. Attendees will discover how to specify wireless dimming for their shows, ensure superb performance and reliability, and avoid various pitfalls and hazards. Particular focus is given to choosing the right batteries, maintaining them, and safely handling them.

Flame Retardant Norms and Standards (Double Session)

Presenter: JD International Come learn from industry professionals on norms, standards, products and applications of flame retardants. Think you know it all? Guess again. Presenters are Sean Tracy, National Fire Protection Agency's Canadian Regional Manager, with 25 years experience in National standards; Kathleen Newman, Firetect, manufacturer of Flame retardants, with many years of experience in dealing with Fire Marshals and certifications; and

Michel Gohier, JD international, Certified (State of California) applicator. Learn what to look for, and do's and don'ts of flame retarding. This topic affects us all before, during, and after a show. Ignorance is no longer bliss. The more we educate, the more we progress towards a safer future.

Roadhouse Round Table

Co-chairs – Roger Lantz and Warren Beatteay

An RDM primer

Presenter: Gary Douglas This acronym, which stands for remote device management, will change how we control performance lighting equipment. Get in on the ground floor with an easy to understand explanation and connectivity demonstration.

How Much Does a Flat Cost? An Approach to Set Costing

Presenter: Pam Nichols with Scott Miller This is a lecture style session geared toward beginners. Pam will present her own approach to costing a set design from a series of drawings, including some general guidelines, examples of costing simple pieces, and a review of the techniques and spreadsheets she's developed for costing. Scott will add comments on his methods. Pam will also present a completed set costing, along with rough work and drawings. If time permits and participants are interested, she will also bring a set of drawings to distribute for a practical exercise. Questions and comments from participants are welcome.

The Business Case for Renovations

Presenter: Phillip Giddings This session explores how to develop a business plan for theatre technology renovations. Discussion will include business language and plans, positioning the renovation, long and short term planning, and cost/benefit analysis. Several case studies will be presented.

Designing Theatre for Young Audience

Presenter: Linda Leon with Duval Lang and Marissa Kochanski. Panel discussion followed by group discussion. We will discuss the artistic, budgetary, and demographic challenges to designing for TYA. There would also be a discussion of the conditions for school touring.

LED Technology for the Theatre

Presenter: Robert Gerlach

A lecture style presentation to bring interested parties up to speed on current LED technology for use in theatre. Q & A to follow.

Fire Evacuation and Safety

Presenter: Garry Saunders A lecture/demo on evacuation procedures for public performance spaces, including a discussion of what went wrong in cases like Rhode Island.

LED Product Demonstration

Moderator: Rob Hamilton Review and comparison of several brands of LED cyc lights.

Stage Machinery – Elevators

Presenter: Rick Forbes Panel discussion on stage elevators featuring slides of counterweight elevators.

Period Epherma – Web Based Research

Presenter: Robyn Ayles Share your techniques, share your websites, share your suppliers! We'll have a discussion about getting period epherma ready for the stage. Bring info in electronic form and we'll put it up on a screen, or just bring a web address and we'll go there live. We'll discuss newspapers, candy wrappers, labelling, and posters.

Jubilee Renovations

Presenter: Douglas Welch Both the Northern and Southern Jubilee Auditoriums recently underwent \$35M renovations after 50 years of operations. Doug will discuss what changes were made, and why.

Stage Parent Primer

Presenter: Roger Lantz, Warren Beatteay A recent callboard discussion focused around parents of children involved in dance school and other performances becoming increasingly abusive and threatening. This will be a panel discussion to discuss procedures and policies that might help alleviate some of these problems.

Programming Moving Lights for Theatre

Presenter: Robert Bell This session, led by industry guru Robert Bell, will explore the basics of programming automated lighting fixtures on common theatre consoles. Learn how using this technology differs than regular conventional lighting

and find out what you need to know to make your programming sessions more effortless.

TD's in the Design Process

Panel Chair: Rick Forbes Panel session will address the questions of the role of a Technical Director in the process of realizing designs for the stage. What should TD's be doing to support the designer's process? What role can designers take to help get their vision realized?

Theatre and Recycling

Presenter: Brian Pincott The 'strike dumpster' should no longer have a place in today's theatre. Recycling, and being socially and environmentally responsible, is easy and can save money. Find out some of the choices that will ensure a safer and cleaner workspace, and avoid sending tons of material to the landfill.

The Future of Sound

Presenter: Jim Cormack Lecture and discussion about the future of sound as it applies to the performing arts.

Stress Busters for Tech Week

Presenter: Dr. David Lawson A "hands-on" (literally) class on how to alleviate the physical symptoms of stress.

Happening throughout the weekend a Moving Light Control Product Showcase!

This showcase will take place in the Engineered Theatre on Saturday and Sunday. Both ETC and Horizon Control will be represented. There will be a number of automated lights hooked up to a variety of consoles so people can sit down and play with them. Manufacturer reps will be on hand to answer questions and explain the technology. Participants are encouraged to sign up for a dedicated slot of time so they can discuss the products one-on-one.

To register: www.citt.org/conf.htm or contact the National Office (613) 482-1165 or 1-888-271-3383 (within Canada).

See you there!

FROM CALLBOARD

– Wardrobe Workshop Makeover!

Thinking of renovating or building a wardrobe workshop? Here's a thread of ideas submitted on CallBoard following a posting from Mike Bowen, ATD, Head LX at The Port Theatre, Nanaimo BC.

Hello all,
My wife is the wardrobe mistress/resident designer for Chemainus Festival Theatre. They are in the process of finishing off and moving into a production facility, which includes a wardrobe shop and costume storage. I was wondering if anybody has any good and/or interesting designs for cutting tables, sewing stations and costume storage. The budget is very limited (surprise, surprise) so this must be borne in mind. We are open to all ideas. Thanks in advance

Mike Bowen

Some ideas in our shop and storage space that I really like:

- Spindle at the end of cutting table to hold 48" w brown paper (has a tear-off blade on it)
- We hung pipes from the ceiling one above the other for storage, you need a ladder to get stuff down from the upper pipe, but it makes great use of space
- Peg boards along a couple of walls for storage of ties, purses, belts, etc
- LOTS of shelving
- We recycle copier paper boxes to store items, so that determined the depth and length of shelves
- LOTS of light (preferably natural) in the construction shop

One thing that we don't have, and wish we did is a fitting room that is separated from the construction shop. It's difficult for people in the fitting to concentrate with the din of the shop in the background.

Allan Sansom

Probably not novel ideas, but what the heck...

- Provision for ironing right at each sewing machine (like a wall-mounted fold-up board, and a convenient electrical outlet if not an actual iron)
- Swivel hooks, mounted quite high up, for steaming full-length costumes

Air quality is something to be aware of, too, with all those bits of cotton floating about... so, good ventilation,

lots of vacuum cleaner outlets, lino flooring etc.

Tom Heemskerck

A great idea, or so I think, I saw in Banff were red lights above the industrial irons that indicated they were on. That way at the end of the night when whoever turned the work lights off before they left they could tell if any of the irons had been left on by accident.

Jesse Carroll

We've discovered that there is a huge difference in heating/cooling requirements in that shop, if they're doing a big build. The amount of heat generated by the extra machines and bodies has not been manageable by our HVAC system. All we can do is put in fans to exhaust and move the warmer air.

It may be too late already, and it's expensive, but if you can plan for this all the better. A comfortable wardrobe is a happier wardrobe, as I'm sure you know...

Allan Sansom

Mike,
I don't claim to know much about sewing or cutting, but it seems that there is a necessity in the wardrobe shop for an old radio tuned to CBC. Not sure why. Might have something to do with the bias, or the feed dogs, or some other wardrobe thing that I don't really understand.

Steven Goodman

Costume shop essentials...
- Cutting tables should have adjustable legs to change the height to suit cutters of varying heights.
- Ice machine for Monday Martini Madness... etc. etc. etc.

p.s. I think there was a design for a cutting table in the Yale Technical Briefs. It was published in one of the USITT magazines a few years back. Perhaps someone has it handy and could send a copy your way.

Rob Hamilton

I had timer switches put on the outlets where our industrial irons are plugged in. These are similar to the rotary timers that are sometimes on bathroom fans. These timers are 12-hour timers with a rating of 20 amps.

They are turned on at the start of the shift and set to the approximate number of hours needed. Even if someone forgets to shut the irons off before leaving the timers will shut the power off when it runs out.

Doug Speare

Mike,
Don't forget good adjustable rolling ergonomic work chairs to go with those tables. I hear Stratford or maybe Shaw has some excellent chairs that keep the staff happy and comfortable working those long wardrobe hours we know they work.

Jesse Carrol

Since the wardrobe staff will spend a lot of time on their feet, the floor should not be concrete. A sprung floor would be ideal, but anything with some give would be better than nothing. Portable rubber mats like cashiers use may help if dollars are short for doing the whole floor.

Robert Hamilton

Hi. As a costumer I would like to add a few comments (not in any particular order).

Make sure the tables are adjustable. Also make sure there are no obstructions for sewers knees. (One table design I've worked at had a shelf about 12" below the table top. It was a good idea until you tried to sit at the table and weren't able to get your knees under - very uncomfortable.) A shelf at the bottom gives you space to put boxes but not too many as there needs to be room for one's feet. Decide if you would like to pin into the table (I prefer a table I can pin into). If you do go with a roll of paper at the end of the table remember you need room to tear off the paper and it adds length to the table (maybe not a concern).

A drafting style chair is great as it has a back and has good support and can be adjusted for the individual user.

Definitely have rubber mats, especially if the floor is concrete, to help with fatigue.

Keep in mind task lighting. The good old elbow lamps at the ends of tables work well. Those days of working with black on black can be very trying (who made the eye of the needle so small?).

Think about a central area for all the thread, findings and supplies. Sometimes the plastic tier of drawers on rollers works well. Thread boards or bins are handy near the machines, especially near the sergers. A cupboard for elastics, tapes, boning and closures keeps things in a central location. The toolboxes with the little pullout drawers are useful for hooks and bars, buttons and other small items.

A handy unit is a box on casters - 20" - 24" square, 36" deep for storing rolls of fabric. You can keep it near a table or have it in corner. Or a box the width of the table that store fabric rolls.

For any storage using boxes keep the boxes a uniform size (bankers boxes work well as they have handles for easy moving. A good label machine works wonders in maintaining a system. Get as much shelving as possible.

Make sure that the ironing table is of a reasonable size so you can press yardage without difficulty. A shelf underneath can hold the sleeve boards and other things. Adding a switch with a light to the plug for the iron is really handy. It is easy to turn off and doesn't damage the plug.

Keep the washer and dryer out of the workroom. So irritating listening to the wash cycle while working and you don't want to breathe the dryer dust. Make sure there is excellent ventilation in the dye area (assuming you may have one). A spray booth or access to one is essential for barging and other nasty type stuff - keep it out of the workroom.

Make sure there is enough power and outlets for the machines. It's very tiresome when the breaker keeps tripping. Also be aware of any tripping hazards and remove them.

A storage idea is to make a cotton twill or canvas covering (about 18" long) for a standard wire hanger. You can then pin belts, bras, suspenders etc to the cotton. If the hanger is a strong one (or use two), a lot of items can be stored this way.

I will probably think of something else but the best of luck with the new space.

Karen McVey
Costumer

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Nomination at Q1 Productions

Brian Konechny, President and COO of Q1 Production Technologies, is very pleased to announce that Laurence A. (Larry) Darling joins the company effective August 2, 2005 as Vice President Sales.

Larry will be responsible for overseeing the Sales Departments of both Q1's Vancouver and Winnipeg operations, strengthening the existing market position of the two offices, and developing and executing a long-term strategy for the company's North American sales efforts.

Born and raised in the Canadian Maritimes, Larry studied electronics in New Brunswick and sound engineering in Montreal before moving to Vancouver in 1994, where he took a position as Production Manager at the Plaza of Nations.

The following year, Larry joined Christie Lites where, after stints as Shop Manager and Rental Account Manager, he was put in charge of the development of a newly formed dedicated Sales Division, which, under his direction, grew to a six-person department in just over two years.

Larry left Christie Lites in 2003 to join Rosco Labs as manager of their Western Region Dealer Network, where he was highly effective in increasing traditional sales, creating opportunities for Rosco products in non-traditional markets, and developing ways to merge core Rosco products with new technologies.

Larry brings to Q1 a combination of outstanding sales and leadership skills, an extraordinary degree of product knowledge, and a tremendous enthusiasm for the industry. His leadership of the Q1 sales team will focus on achieving the company's long-term sales and marketing goals by working with the best products and manufacturers in the industry, and building strong and supportive relationships with the clients who use those products.

Q1 Production Technologies was founded in 2001 by Marc Raymond and Phil Bernard who were known in the industry for building Westsun International from a small local rental facility into one of the largest technical support suppliers in North America. The partners sold their interests in Westsun in 2000 and formed Q1 the following year, merging in 2002 with Showtime Lighting and third partner Brian Konechny. Later that year the company repurchased a portion of Westsun including the head office operation.

Q1 provides a comprehensive range of lighting, audio, staging, rigging, soft goods and roofing services for a wide variety of clients in the entertainment and event industries throughout North America.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN KONECHNY

Telephone (604) 434-6400 ext: 228
Email: briank@q1pt.com

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP IN VICTORIA BC

Rigging seminar with Bill Sapsis

The session will cover Fall Arrest equipment, slings, hoists, truss and related hardware, and how to use them and inspect them.

There will also be a stage-rigging component

WHEN: Aug 15 and 16 2005 (Schedule TBA)

WHERE: Victoria BC (Location TBA)

COST: Session fee \$60 (for 2 days)

Open to all in the live events industry.

Presented by IATSE local 168 (Vancouver Island), with the generous support of SHAPE, Victoria Stage Inc. and CITT/ICTS. For more info and to register, please contact Tom Heemsker at tomheemsker@mac.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

ÉVÉNEMENTS À VENIR

AUGUST / AOÛT

CITT/ICTS Rendez-vous 2005

Beyond the Boundaries / Au-delà des frontières
August 11 - 14 août 2005
Calgary, Alberta
www.citt.org/conf.htm

RIGGING SEMINAR with Bill Sapsis

August 15-16 2005 Victoria BC
Contact : tomheemsker@mac.com

QCQTS: Ateliers de perfectionnement pour les directeurs techniques et les techniciens des arts de la scène

31 août - 1 septembre Grand Théâtre de Québec, Ville de Québec
Professional Workshops for Technical Directors and Stage Technicians
August 31-September 1 Grand Théâtre de Québec, Québec City

En collaboration avec le Conseil de la culture des régions de Québec et de Chaudière-Appalaches et Emploi-Québec. Info:
pascale.landry@culture-quebec.qc.ca

SEPTEMBER / SEPTEMBRE

PLASA SHOW

September 11-14 2005,
Earls Court, London, UK
www.plasashow.com

NOVEMBER / NOVEMBRE

LDI 2005 Conference and Exhibits

November 11-13
Florida, Orlando USA
www.lidshow.com

MARCH / MARS (2006)

USITT Confrence and Stage Expo

March 29-April 1 2006
Louisville KY USA
www.usitt.org

WELCOME! to our new members

BIENVENUE ! à nos nouveaux membres

Please make the following corrections from the July issue:

Brentwood College School
ATT: Don Armitage

Centre for the Arts
ken.garrett@brocku.ca

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

MEMBRES INDIVIDUELS

ROOT, Chris
SHAW, Darrell

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Not-for-profit
ORGANISME
à but non lucratif

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