

## Special Feature – CITT/ICTS 2006 AWARD RECIPIENT

On August 12 2006, Toronto hosted the 9th Annual CITT/ICTS Award Banquet in recognition of individuals and companies that excel in their field of live performance in Canada. Every month, StageWorks will feature a portrait of this year's CITT/ICTS Annual Awards Recipients.

This month we feature the The Ron Epp Memorial Award for Professional Achievement recipient. The Ron Epp Memorial Award for Professional Achievement is awarded to an individual, in recognition of longstanding career achievement in a technical or related discipline within the Canadian live performance industry. **This years recipient is Robert Hamilton.**

Robert Hamilton has been involved in our industry for over 20 years. In that time he has worked as a technician, designer, instructor and theatre consultant as well as holding many positions within CITT/ICTS.

Robert has worked with Douglas Welch Designs Associates Ltd. as a theatre consultant and lighting designer since 1988. Previous experience includes positions as an assistant lighting designer for the Stratford Festival in Canada and the New York City Opera. Since 1989, he has been teaching classes in the areas of lighting and design as part of the Stagecraft Program at Douglas College in New Westminster BC. As an active member of the CITT/ICTS, Robert Hamilton chaired the CITT British Columbia Section from January 1998 to February 2003, as well as held a position on the CITT/ICTS national board from May 1997 to August 2002. He is also an avid participant of the CITT/ICTS's sister organization the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT). Since joining Douglas Welch Designs Associates Ltd., Robert has served as a theatre consultant and theatrical equipment systems designer on over forty facilities.

He has been a strong supporter of theatre and CITT/ICTS for many years. He has also supported bringing youth into the industry both as an instructor and employer.

Although he works hard to be a fun-loving guy, Robert is a font of useful information that he is willing to share at any time and a true friend of the industry. He has never been known to lack energy or enthusiasm for his work as a designer, teacher or consultant. Robert is an amazingly dedicated man of the theatre whose motto might well be "Next time I'll do it even better!"

Touring a theatre with Robert is a revealing experience, whether or not it is a building on which he consulted. Not surprisingly, he is quick to observe the fine points of the spaces and equipment, but what impresses people is how much serious thinking he has done about all the little details. When questioned, Robert always has opinions about the most appropriate and cost-effective way of doing something, but he is never merely dogmatic. His reasoning always starts from the effect each decision will have on the end users: the performers, technicians and audience members whom he understands and cares deeply about.

Working constantly in the 'real' world where the conflicting objectives, ridiculous budgets and the endless forced compromises of even a single construction project can wear anyone out, Robert Hamilton manages to maintain his enthusiasm, energy and commitment to building better theatres.



Robert Hamilton (right) receiving his award from the President of CITT/ICTS Bob Johnston

Robert Hamilton (à droite) recevant le prix de la part du président de CITT/ICTS Bob Johnston



Bell Centre for the Performing Arts, Surrey BC

**Areas of Expertise:** Theatrical design and consulting, theatre equipment systems design, stage lighting design.

### Education

- MFA in Design for the Theatre, British Columbia, 1988
- BA (Hons) Drama, Waterloo, 1984
- Theatre Crafts and Design Diploma, The Banff Centre School of Fine Arts, 1983

### Professional Experience

- Tour organizer for CITT/ICTS annual conference held in Vancouver BC in 1996 and in 2002.
- Lecturer, Council of Educational Facility Planners International, Dallas Texas,
- 1997 - Lecturer, Illuminating Engineering Society regarding the lighting design for the Pacific Market at Vancouver International Airport.
- 1997 - Published article regarding the design of sprung floors for multi-use performance facilities on CITT/ICTS's electronic forum, CalBoard.
- 1997 - Conducted the first Vancouver meeting of theatrical lighting designers, Capilano College, North Vancouver.
- 1997 - Proposed a new course offering to UBC titled Design of Performance Facilities for theatre or architecture students.

- Guest Speaker at Crossing Boundaries conference for BC Arts Educators, Vancouver, "BC School Performance Facilities in the 1990's."
- Guest Speaker at the CITT/ICTS annual conference Edmonton Alberta, "Mechanical Systems for Performance Facilities".
- 1999 - Guest Speaker at the USITT annual conference in Toronto, "How to get the Theatre of your Dreams".
- 1999 - Guest Speaker at the BC Recreation and Parks Association's annual conference in Nanaimo, BC, "How to make a Theatre Make Money".
- June 2003 - Assisted in the set-up and strike of the Canadian Exhibits at the Prague Quadrennial.
- June 2006 - Official CITT/ICTS delegate representing Canada at the OISTAT Architecture Commission meetings in Belgium.

### Some projects that Robert has worked on with Douglas Welch Designs Associates Ltd. include:

Coquitlam Casino Theatre, Coquitlam BC  
 River Rock Casino Theatre, Richmond BC  
 Cascades Casino Show Lounge, Langley BC  
 Chemainus Theatre, Chemainus BC  
 Fringe Theatre Adventures, Edmonton AB  
 Maple Ridge Arts Centre, Maple Ridge BC  
 Rotary Centre for the Arts – Theatre, Kelowna BC  
 Maurice Young Millennium Place, Whistler BC  
 Performance Works - Granville Island, Vancouver BC  
 Inlet Theatre & Council Chamber, Port Moody BC  
 G.W. Graham School Theatre, Chilliwack BC  
 Brooks Sr. Secondary School Theatre, Powell River BC  
 Heritage Woods School Theatre, Port Moody BC  
 Cariboo College Theatre, Kamloops BC  
 Bell Centre for the Performing Arts, Surrey BC  
 Earl Marriott Secondary School Theatre, Surrey BC  
 Terry Fox School Theatre, Port Coquitlam BC  
 Langley Fine Arts School Theatre, Fort Langley BC  
 Capilano College - Birch Theatre, North Vancouver BC  
 University College of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack BC