

StageWorks will feature in each month a portrait of this year's CITT/ICTS Annual Awards Recipients. This month we portray **William Pinnell**, recipient of the Education Achievement Award.

### Special Feature

## - PORTRAIT CITT/ICTS 2005 Award Recipient

by Tedfred Myers

At this year's Canadian Institute of Theatre Technology annual conference, BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES, held in Calgary Alberta, Professor William H. Pinnell was awarded the Education Achievement Award. This is awarded to an individual, in recognition of long standing career achievement as an educator. This individual engages in the teaching of a technical or related discipline, while preparing students for work within the Canadian live performance industry.

William Pinnell provides an education to the student not only in the classroom but also in the shop, the rehearsal hall and at the drafting table. In the classroom William will take the student and guide them through a process that will provide them the foundation to carry on in the theatre. His commitment to a hands-on practical approach enables the student to see the results of the rendered scenic design, the painted flat, or the satisfaction of a well-called show.

He has guided Stage Managers and actors through the rehearsal process with an insight to the organization needed in a well-managed theatre. The productions he directs are always successful. His success is due to the artistry he exhibits in coordinating of all areas of design and acting.

William Pinnell is a graduate of Wayne State University's Hilberry Classic Repertory Company. An accomplished designer he has painted over 135 major productions in Canada and the United States and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.

As a director he has guided students in several critically acclaimed productions that toured to Scotland's Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Two such productions were nominated for Fringe First Awards as best production. William's directing methods reassure the student, but also encourage the actors' self-awareness.

His devotion to technical theatre has created a rehearsal process for technical students to flourish. He is always ready to work with scenic designers, scenic artist, stage managers, and assistant directors to lead them through an organized process of technical production.

As an author, he has written two textbooks and is currently at work on a third. His first text *Theatrical Scene Painting: A Lesson Guide* details the process of scene painting. Emphasizing traditional scene painting, this book includes basic tools, primary painting techniques, and methods for creating texture or scenery. This text leads the student through the process of scene painting with



an illustrated guide including over 130 illustrations ranging from colour plates to line drawings. Teaching the beginner how to recreate reality through painted illusion; this book is a step-by-step guide to scene painting for the beginning theatre artist.

His second text *Perspective Rendering for the Theatre* is an illustrated guide that allows one to present the stage setting through a visually accurate perspective rendering. Beginning with the first line drawn the student is provided with step-by-step instructions that takes them through the drawing process to the final phases of shading, colouration, and presentation.

Recently he was able to see the completion of yet another project he has worked on for many years: The Jackman Centre of Performing Arts. This centre would not be the building it is with out his dedication to the project for many years. William collected all the data and initially laid out room requirements to insure each room would fulfil its potential. During the design phase he put in long hours as the lead

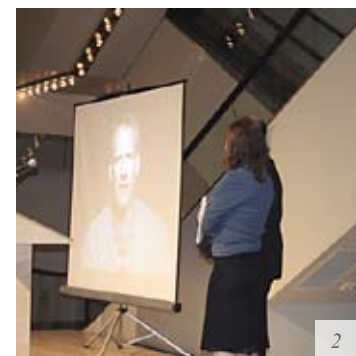
Drama representative. For the inaugural production of *Art* he not only designed the scenery and but also the corner stage which became a permanent fixture of the new building.

William Pinnell was awarded the *Excellence in Teaching Award* by the University of Windsor's Student Alliance. An outstanding professor his students always give him exceptional ratings. His favourite courses are scenic design and scene painting. The dedication he has puts the student first and like most of us in technical theatre does not like to draw attention to his accomplishments.

Although unable to accept the award in person he sent a very emotional video tribute. The text of that speech follows.

"It is with honour and humility that I accept this award. The fact that I have devoted my life to education makes this recognition even more meaningful. I have been blessed over the years to have had gifted students who were hungry and tenacious in their pursuit of knowledge and their growth, maturity and achievements have come as no real surprise... for these young theatre artists have made my job and my profession evermore worthwhile and fulfilling. One such student went on to distinguish himself in graduate school and professional theatre, eventually opening his own business as a scenic artist. His very character and scope of achievement as a craftsman and family man will continue to set a standard by which I will attempt to mentor future students. Sadly, my gifted colleague and friend, Jules Tonus, passed away this July. And, therefore, as a testament to what he offered me when he was my student and later as my peer who also discovered the joy of teaching, it is with deepest pride and gratitude that I thank CITT for this award in Educational Achievement which I accept in his memory. Thank you all very much."

William Pinnell



1: Tedfred Myers presenting the Education Achievement Award with VP internal Heather Kent.

2: William Pinnell on video accepting his award.