

Special Feature – CITT/ICTS 2006 AWARD RECIPIENT

On August 12 2006, Toronto hosted the 9th Annual CITT/ICTS Awards 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 Honorary Membership Award. The Honorary Membership Award is awarded to an individual or organisation not actively involved in the technical disciplines of the Canadian live performance industry, but who by virtue of their position has contributed significantly to the development of technical disciplines within Canada. This contribution can be seen through the recipient's decision-making, influence, and philosophy within the community or by showing themselves to be a longstanding friend of the Institute. **This year's recipient is SHAPE.**

SHAPE (Safety and Health in Arts Production and Entertainment) is a non-profit association that was established in 1998 as the safety and health association for the performing arts and motion picture industry in British Columbia. SHAPE was created at the request of industry representatives and the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia in recognition of the unique nature of the entertainment industries. It serves as a tremendously important resource to us in BC, and stands as a model for the industry continent-wide.

Shape provides services such as safety training courses, hearing testing and safety consultations, as well as financial support for seminars hosted by other industry organizations. The SHAPE website is nothing less than a goldmine of safety information. Its numerous publications include monthly newsletters, safety guidelines, forms and posters, all of which are provided at no cost. SHAPE provides an on-line registry of worker training certifications, which enables employers to efficiently confirm, track and manage employee training.

SHAPE also supports CITT BC Section workshops and professional training initiatives, such as the Safety Meeting with Monona Rossol (January 2004) and the Rigging Seminar (August 2005), to name a few.

SHAPE is unique but it shouldn't be, nor should it be the envy of the industry. We all should have a group such as SHAPE to work with.

Acceptance Speech

delivered by Don Parman,
Performing Arts Worker Representative on
SHAPE's Board of Directors

Thank you. Everybody.
Thank you CITT National Board.
Thank you to all the membership for spreading the word of both SHAPE and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in general.

In 8 short years SHAPE has managed to change the way OHS is viewed in our industry, and helped reduce the Worker Compensation Board (WCB) assessment rate, by 27% in the performing arts sector and 16% in the Motion Picture sector this year alone.

Through a proactive approach SHAPE has taken on many issues once pushed to side by both Government and the industry alike. Issues like Dancers Nutrition, Musculoskeletal Injuries and paint disposal to name a few. I would encourage everyone to check out our website at www.shape.bc.ca to see the many documents, courses and initiatives SHAPE is involved with.

SHAPE's success has been driven by you: the industry workers and employers, and suppliers. Without your input and concern many of the issues we deal with today would go unseen and unresolved. Thank you.

There are a few people that have pushed SHAPE along the way and need to be thanked.

Miles Muir, and Rob Moser, both CITT members that have been involved with SHAPE since its infancy



Don Parman (at right) receiving The Honorary Membership Award on behalf of SHAPE with Past President Graham Frampton

Marty Klassen who spends 80% of his time visiting worksites, has made an immeasurable difference in the perception of OHS in BC.

Then there's Linda Kinney. She was the motor that drove SHAPE for the last 5 years, as general manager and is largely responsible for SHAPE's success. Linda retired 2 weeks ago and couldn't be here to accept this award, so I'm doing it in her place. Thank-you Linda.

WCB and Worksafe BC for having the faith to put OHS in the hands of the industry people that use it. Not an easy thing to do I'm sure.

Finally I would like to thank the people that have stood their ground and refused to work in unsafe situations. Not always an easy thing to do. Without that vital link we cannot improve safety in our ever-changing industry.

Through diligence and communication, one day thinking about OHS will be as easy as breathing in and out. Thank-you all.

Don Parman
August 12, 2006