

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)

What is USITT?

The United States Institute for Theatre Technology is the association of design, production, and technology professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industry. USITT is dedicated to the professional development of men and women who are an integral part of the performing arts community. Established in 1960 by theatre professionals and educators, USITT is now an international organization and draws its board of directors from across the United States and Canada.

The mission of USITT is to actively promote the advancement of the knowledge and skills of its members by:

- Promoting research, innovation, and creativity by sponsoring projects, programs, and symposia;
- Disseminating information about aesthetic and technological developments;
- Providing opportunities for professional contacts and networking;
- Producing the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo;
- Participating in the development of industry standards;
- Promoting and sponsoring international alliances and activities;
- Advocating safe, efficient, and ethical practices;
- Sponsoring exhibits of scenery, costumes, lighting, sound, stage technology and architectural designs; and
- Recognizing excellence and significant contributions in the performing arts and entertainment industry.

USITT keeps performing-arts professionals in touch with today's changing scene. Members include technical directors, stage managers, architects, lighting designers and technicians, production managers, stage managers, allied distributors, manufacturers and suppliers, academic staff, students, and sound, set, costume, make-up, properties, and special-effects craftspeople.

What is the United States Institute for Theater Technology, New England Section?

The New England Section of USITT is a growing group of design and production professionals in the performing arts actively promoting the advancement of the knowledge and skills of its members and the performing arts profession by:

- Establishing a network of theater professionals who provide mutual support as it relates to stage technology, resource information, and employment opportunities;
- Disseminating information about current aesthetic and technological developments in the performing arts of the region;
- Providing venues that promote and encourage the exchange of ideas and increase USITT's exposure to all its members; and

- Providing exposure to students of all levels to the theatrical community in New England.

Over 200 people are members of the USITT New England Section. Annual activities include an August barbecue, a regional production and administrative job expo, a resume-building session, and involvement in the New England Theatre Conference. The New England Section publishes a free e-mail listserv, with information on activities of and networking opportunities for its 200 members.

Membership in the New England Section is \$15 for an individual (\$5 for students), \$50 for an organization, and \$100 for a sponsor. *Membership in the New England Section does not include membership in the National USITT and vice versa.*

For more information, contact:

USITT New England Section
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Fax: 617.442.2801

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http://pages.emerson.edu/organizations/usitt_ne

How do I become a national member of USITT and what are the benefits?

Individual Membership in National USITT is \$90 per year. That includes subscriptions *Sightlines* and *TD&T* magazine, a copy of the *Membership Directory & Resource Guide*, a registration discount for the Annual Conference and Stage Expo, discounts on other services and USITT publications, and eligibility to apply for project support from the USITT/Edward F. Kook Endowment Fund.

National USITT has a number of other membership categories. These are Joint Membership (\$150), Professional Membership (\$140), Student Membership (\$50), Senior Membership (\$72), Organizational Membership (\$150), Sustaining Membership (\$600), and Contributing Membership (\$1,000). Consult the USITT Web site for the details on each.

For more information, contact:

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USITT Publications

Sightlines, USITT's monthly membership newsletter, contains reports on institute activities, as well as news of the conference, regional activities, and upcoming events.

TD&T (Theatre Design & Technology) is the institute's quarterly journal. Articles range from historical perspectives to the latest trends in design and technology. Costume, scenery, lighting, architecture, and stage technology are some of the featured topics. Also included are how-to's, regular sections on new products, book reviews, international news, and a special juried section.

Costume Research Journal is a quarterly devoted to costume and dress.

The institute also publishes the annual *USITT Membership Directory & Resource Guide* and many handbooks and technical guides. For a complete list, see the USITT Web site.

This article is adapted from a chapter by Jeff Gardiner appearing in The Source before 2002. It originally appeared in the fourth edition of The Source, in 1996. Gardiner is a Boston-area set and lighting designer.