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Events At-A-Glance

All Four Section States to Host Programming

By Shane Kelly, Vice-Chair of Programming, skelly19@depaul.edu

The Midwest Regional Section announces its programming for 2010-2011. A variety of programs is planned in each of the four states of the Section with topics that should interest all of the members in the region.

The first programming event will take place on October 16 in Michigan at Grand Rapids' largest community theatre, the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. The professional staff and guest artists at GRCT have planned a full day starting with a tour followed by a pair of morning workshop sessions. One session will allow participants to work hands-on with a variety of lighting consoles to control moving light fixtures, even older "conventional" consoles. The other morning session is a hands-on workshop presented by Dawn Butler, a professional make-up artist who has worked with a variety of films and TV commercials that have filmed in Grand Rapids. She will work with participants to understand and practice the different make-up needs of actors on stage and in front of the camera.

In the afternoon, the sound designers at GRCT and representatives from Corporate Sound Inc. will present the differences between analog and digital audio consoles and allow participants to try out both types. For those who are looking for different and inexpensive ways to create some grand items in their scenic designs, Jim Chervenka, GRCT's technical director, and Brad Wynalda, from Arvron, Inc., will discuss and show off the variety of possibilities that Styrofoam can to work.

For those who wish to see the quality work that Grand Rapids Civic Theatre presents, Section members can get discounted tickets to that evening's performance of *Our Town*. Check out the Midwest Section's webpage at www.usittmidwest.org for complete details and pre-registration for the event in Grand Rapids and for the rest of the year's programming in Whitewater, Wisconsin; Chicago; and Indianapolis!

If you want more information on any of the programming in the USITT Midwest Section, please visit www.usittmidwest.org, or email Shane Kelly, Vice-Chair of Programming at, skelly19@depaul.edu.



Chicago Spotlight Inc, at ISTA

By Steve Jacobs, Steve@chicagospotlight.com

The Illinois Speech and Theatre Association (ISTA) fall conference took place in Springfield IL on Sept. 24-25. Chicago Spotlight Inc., one of the corporate sponsors of the Midwest Regional Section, was asked to talk about their Theatrical Skills Workshop program. Steve Jacobs, Director of Training Workshops for Chicago Spotlight, Inc. and a Section Board member, presented at 2 sessions, joined by Marty Lazarus, President of Chicago Spotlight and former Midwest Section Board member.

Steve talked about the evolution of the workshops, and how it was through conversations



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with Marty that the two of them put their ideas together to create the workshops. The Theatrical Skills Workshops are geared to high school and college students, teachers and staff in a variety of skill areas such as Make-up, Creative Lighting, Safe Rigging and Scene Painting.

During the session, Steve explained that much of his “inspiration” for the workshop program came from his participation in Midwest Section programs during his teaching career. Steve also made mention of the “new” logo that has been adopted by the National office. If interested in knowing more about the workshops, visit Chicagospotlight.com or contact Steve@chicagospotlight.com.



Steve Jacobs from Chicago Spotlight, Inc. discussing their training opportunities at ISTA

Midwest Mechanical Design Competition Another Success

By Verda Beth Martell, bmartell@illinois.edu



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A Letter from the Regional Section Chair, By Kathleen Donnelly, Chair, Donnelly@uwosh.edu

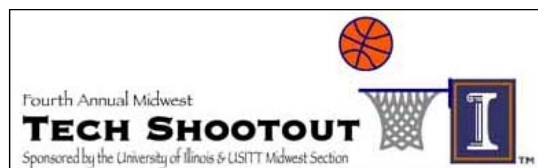
Greetings and welcome to a new year for USITT Midwest Section!

I hope you all had an enjoyable and productive summer. The programming brochure for our upcoming season was mailed earlier this month; along with our membership renewal and founders award form. If you did not receive this mailing, please send an e-mail to our Vice Chair of Membership, Mick Alderson alderson@uwosh.edu and he will get you the information. Pay Pal is back on line so that you can pay your membership dues easily. Just go to our section web site <http://www.usittmidwest.org>.

As we begin our new year, we have welcomed new board members, David Leugs as our new Secretary and Paul Brunner as a director at large. We wish to thank Dave Krajec, and Alan Stalmah, for their contributions in the past, as members of the board of the Midwest Section. We would especially like to thank Davin Huston for his years as our web master. We are currently looking for a new web master for the Section. If you would like to get more involved with the section, and have experience in web design, please send a note to Kathleen Donnelly, Chair of the Section Donnelly@uwosh.edu.

A special note to educators: Please consider recommending one of your students for the Founders Student Award. Information about this award can be found on the flyer included with your membership mailing or by going to the section website. Deadline for nominations is November 15th. I look forward to seeing many of you at the events this coming year! Please send me a note if you would like to be more involved in the section.

Kathleen Donnelly, Chair
USITT Midwest Regional Section
donnelly@uwosh.edu



Midwest Mechanical Design Competition Another Success

By Verda Beth Martell, bmartell@illinois.edu

2009 MMDC Photo Gallery

Fresh Air and Basketball Shooters – Definitely a Winning Combination

On a rainy Saturday in early May, basketball shooters reined at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts during the Fourth Annual Midwest Mechanical Design Competition, sponsored by the USITT Midwest Regional Section.

The 2009 shootout showcased nine remarkably varied designs from University of Illinois and Indiana University students. Adam Weil successfully defended his title taking the USITT Midwest Section Best Design Award and the \$100 prize.

What is this year's event? You'll have to register to find out. Go to www.usittmidwest.org for more information.



One of the slingshot designs, this one, by Indiana's rookie, Sean Dumm, uses an adjustable medical rubber sling.



Above: Illinois rookie Linda Esperance assembles her classic slingshot design. Note the height adjustment.



Loaded and Ready: The Ballus Ejectus with extending arm and pneumatic trigger action by Steven Ferrier of the University of Illinois.

Right: Zach Tysinger (Illinois) shooting his sling shot. And it's Good!!

5th Annual Midwest Mechanical Design Competition
Registration is NOW open
 for the 2011 MMDC to take place on Saturday, May 7th, 2011, See the next page for registration information.



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5th Annual Midwest Mechanical Design Competition Registration Open

By Verda Beth Martell, bmartell@illinois.edu

The Midwest Mechanical Design Competition (MMDC) shootout will take place on Saturday, May 7 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois. Registration for this year's competition starts October 1st and is open to college theatre majors of all ages and skill levels, including undergraduate and graduate students.

What is the MMDC? It's your chance to show off your skills, network with students from across the Midwest, and have your mechanical design critiqued by theatre professionals.

How does it work? The students are given the parameters for a mechanical device to design, document and prototype. Then they bring their prototypes to the shootout on May 7 where they are put through

Awards! This year the overall winner will receive an acrylic trophy and a Full Conference Pass to the 2012 USITT National Conference. The competition is broken into a number of categories – everyone has a chance to win.

This competition was devised to help students develop a mechanical design process that will benefit them whether they design small siege engines, classic turntables, or the next new Tech Expo-winning idea. The MMDC is intended to reinforce good research, design, construction, troubleshooting and documentation habits. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate this project into their classes.

Attention Designers! Coming Soon - The

Midwest Aesthetic Design

Competition will take place alongside the Mechanical Design Competition on May 7 at the Krannert Center. Come watch the shootout, join in on a workshop and show off your design to compete for a full-conference pass to the 2012 USITT National Conference. Look for details, coming this winter.





the paces to determine which is the best design.

What is this Year's Project? In the past students have designed basketball shooters, trebuchets, dart shooters and more! What's next? You will have to register to find out. After registration you will receive a packet (via e-mail) that includes the project description and specific rules for this year's competition. Register soon to get started.

How do I register? For more information about this year's competition, including how to register, go to www.usittmidwest.org and choose Midwest Mechanical Design Competition from the right hand column.



				Welcome to another exciting year of programs brought to you by USITT Midwest Regional Section. We are bringing programs to all four states in our section this year, and hope that you can join us, and reconnect with colleagues from around the region, as we partake in tours, workshops, and performances. Please check out www.usittmidwest.org for updates to the programming information and to pre-register. I look forward to seeing you! - Kathleen Donnelly, Chair of USITT Midwest Regional Section	
Theatre and Film in Western Michigan	Grand Rapids Civic Theatre Grand Rapids, MI	Saturday, October 16, 2010	9:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT	Host: Jim Chervenka Technical Director	A full day with something for everyone: Lights, Sound, Make-Up, and Scenery at the beautiful Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. After a day of hands-on learning, you can cap off the day by taking in GRC's production of <i>Our Town</i> .
Non-Theatre Production	Intelligent Lighting Creations, Chicago, IL	Saturday, November 13, 2010	9:00 am - 5:00 pm CST	Host: Ryan Bundy Senior Account Executive ILC	Morning tour of Willowcreek Community Church which will explore their use of theatrical production techniques. Afternoon hands-on demo of media servers as well as a hair and make-up hands-on workshop at ILC
Day of programming at University of Wisconsin Whitewater	University of Wisconsin Whitewater, Whitewater, WI	Saturday, January 22, 2011	9:00 am - 5:00 pm CST	Host: Tracey Lyons, Dept. of Theatre and Dance U of Wisconsin-Whitewater	Look for more information coming about the day's workshops which will include topics in lighting, sound, stage management, and costuming.
USITT Midwest Annual Meeting	Charlotte Convention Center Charlotte, NC	Thursday, March 10, 2011	8:00 am - 9:15 am EST	Host: Kathleen Donnelly USITT Midwest Chair	This section meeting is the USITT-Midwest Annual meeting. All Conference attendees living within the boundaries of our section are encouraged to attend, however, ONLY Section Members are permitted to vote on issues that require Membership approval.
Day in Indianapolis	Children's Museum of Indianapolis and Indiana Repertory Theatre	Saturday, April 2, 2011	9:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT	Hosts: Children's Museum of Indianapolis and Indiana Rep	A morning tour and panel discussion at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis and an afternoon of workshops and a tour at Indiana Rep. Look for more detailed information coming in January.
Scene Painting Workshop	College of DuPage, McAninch Arts Center Glen Ellyn, IL	Friday, April 15, 2011 (Intermediate Painters) Saturday, April 16, 2011 (Beginning Painters)	9:00 am - 5:00 pm CDT 9:30 am - 4:00 pm CDT	Host: Steve Jacobs Dir. of Training Workshops Chicago Spotlight, Inc.	Workshop is co-sponsored between Chicago Spotlight's Theatrical Skills Workshops and USITT Midwest Section. Presenter is professional scenic artist Jenny Knott. Each day is a separate registration. Visit chicagospotlight.com - Seminars for information. Contact steve@chicagospotlight.com with questions.
Midwest Design Competition	Krannert Center, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana	Saturday, May 7, 2011	9:00 am - 5:00 pm CDT	Hosts: Verda Beth Martell & Tom Korder	The Inaugural Midwest Design Competition showcases undergraduate and graduate visual, audio, and mechanical design. Three winners will receive USITT National Conference Registration among other prizes.
TECH OLYMPICS COMPETITIONS					
Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival	University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, WI	Friday, Nov. 19, 2010	1:15 pm and 3:30 pm	Hosts: Ellen White & Rick Wolff	http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/lisa/theatre/hstf.htm
Michigan Educational Theatre Assoc Festival	Michigan State U., East Lansing, MI	Friday, Dec. 3, 2010	4:00 pm and 7:15 pm	Host: Patrick Niemi	
KC/ACTF Regional III Festival	Michigan State U., East Lansing, MI	TBD	TBD	Hosts: Jim Ream & David Delcollettoi	http://www.kcactf3.org/fest_home.htm
Illinois High School Theatre Festival	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL	Friday, Jan. 7, 2011	10:30 AM	Host: David Barone	www.illinoistheatrefest.org
Indiana Thespian Festival	University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN	Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011	1:00pm	Hosts: Ellen White & Jim Ream	http://www.indianathespians.org/home/state-conference



What's next? ...

find out at the
2011 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo
 March 9 to 12

Charlotte Convention Center
 Charlotte, North Carolina

watch for details online and in *Sightlines*

Photo courtesy of Visit Charlotte

