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Calling All Student Designers! Enter the USITT- Midwest Section's Student Design Digital Competition

You have the opportunity to earn one of two scholarships for a full registration to USITT in Milwaukee, March 20-23, 2013, an approximate value of \$274.

Scholarship #1 – Non-Realized “Paper” Design: Students may choose from the 2012 (last year’s) OR the 2013 (this year’s) KCACTF Region 3 Regional Design Project Allowed Plays – whether the design had been entered in KCACTF or not.
<http://kcactf3.org/>

Scholarship #2 – Realized Design: Students may enter a design completed for a production at their school during the 2012 calendar year.

1. Students should indicate their intent to enter by emailing Shane Kelly, chair of USITT-Midwest, at skelly19@depaul.edu. Do not include design materials in this email.
2. Shane will then contact the student with Drop box information for uploading designs.
3. Students will upload their design, in a digital format (CD, PowerPoint, webpage address, etc.) per Shane’s instructions.
4. Each entry must include the following:
 - a. Cover page including student’s name, school, & contact information. This information should NOT appear anywhere else on the design materials provided.
 - b. Confirmation letter from faculty design advisor confirming the eligibility of the student designer and design.

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Three of the USITT-Midwest Founders, photographed a few years ago. Bernie Works, Al Koga, & Dick Arnold

Founders Awards— Now accepting nominations for both categories!

The Founders Awards were established in honor of those who first chartered the Midwest Regional Section of USITT. The Board of Directors annually recognizes both a student and a regular member for their service to our Section or for their hard work and enthusiasm in pursuing a career in Technical Theatre. The Midwest Regional Section accepts nominations from Section members for the Founders Awards. There are two award categories: Student and Section Member.

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Design Competition, Cont. from Pg

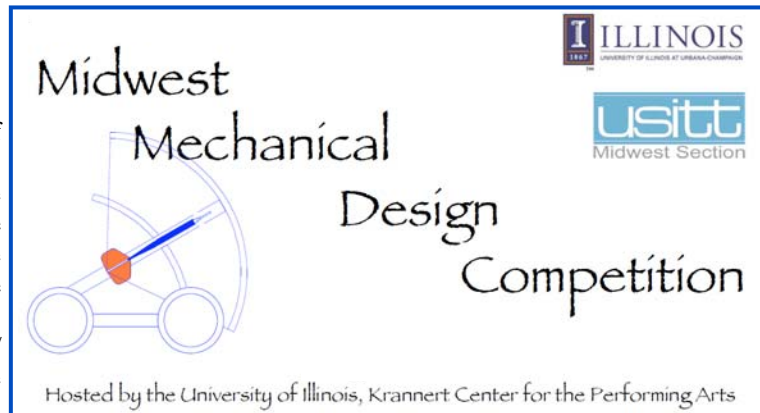
- c. One-page Concept Statement. Original scripts should include a brief synopsis.
- d. Digital design portfolio for the project that must be organized to be self-explanatory containing those elements that clearly communicate the design, such as: research, analyses, drafting, renderings, and/or other materials developed for the design.

Realized designs should include representative production photos.

Winners will be selected by a blind jury of the Midwest Section Board of Directors. Shane Kelly will be the only one who knows the names and schools of the entrants and he will not be voting on the scholarship recipients.

For more complete information, in the flyer, contact Shane Kelly at skelly19@depaul.edu.

MMDC—is the Midwest Mechanical Design Competition. Look for an announcement on how to register for the annual event hosted by the University of Illinois. Details to come!

*Founders Awards, continued*

1) Student Award

Active Section members may nominate students to receive a monetary award of not less than \$300.00 and a one year Membership in the Section. Students may be either High School Seniors or College Undergraduates. The criteria for nomination are: active in the High School or College Technical Theatre program, and intent to pursue a career in Technical Theatre or related field. Student nominees will be expected to: provide the Founders Award Committee with a current resume, and write a brief statement of their goals in Technical Theatre. Students who are nominated need not be a current member of the Section.

2) Section Member Award

Active Section members may nominate one of their fellows for this award. The award consists of a plaque briefly detailing the member's contributions to the Midwest Regional Section and a Lifetime membership in the Section. Nominations must be made and seconded by current active members. Criteria for nomination are: active member of the Section, outstanding contributions to the Section in the form of participation, growth

of the Section, and service to the Section and assistance in achievement of Section goals.

How to Nominate?

Student Award: Fill out the nomination form completely and return to:

Thomas V. Korder
USITT Midwest Awards Committee Chair
500 South Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
by e-mail to: kordertv@illinois.edu

The committee will contact the nominee requesting the criteria information listed above.

Nomination form: midwest.usitt.org

Section Member Award: Fill out the nomination form completely, secure a second for your nomination and mail, fax or e-mail as above.

Multiple nominations for the same Section member will be considered as seconded.

Nomination Deadline

All nominations must be received by November 15, 2012. Awards will be presented at the Midwest Section meeting at the USITT Conference and Stage Expo in March at 8:00 AM local time.

Thank you, Thomas Korder



Small Theatre Spotlight—First Folio

By Michael McNamara, Purdue University

Founded in 1996 in Oak Brook, IL as First Folio Shakespeare Festival by David Rice and Alison Vesely, the company changed their name in 2008 to First Folio Theatre to better reflect the full breadth of works that they were offering, which includes classic works by writers such as Oscar Wilde, Noël Coward, Edgar Allan Poe, P.G. Wodehouse, and Eugene O’Neill. Their facilities include two spaces within Mayslake Hall, a 90-year-old mansion owned by the Dupage County Forest Preserve including a 127-seat space in the Great Hall and an 80-seat space in the formal library. In addition, the company also utilizes a 400-seat outdoor theater.

To date, First Folio has produced more than 40 mainstage productions including five world premieres and five Chicago premieres. Their outdoor summer productions have included *Richard III*, *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, *Antigone*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Hamlet*. In their indoor space the shows we have produced include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Private Lives*, *A Connecticut Yankee*, *Angel Street*, *A Design for Living*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, the Chicago premieres of *Unnecessary Farce*, *Jeeves Takes a Bow*, *Jeeves Intervenes*, *Jeeves in Bloom*, and *The Passion of Dracula*, and the world premieres of *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story*, *Will Rogers: An American Original*, *The Castle of Otranto*, *Fooling Buddha* and *Searching for Peabody’s Tomb*.

In addition, they are currently in their 16th year of school touring, offering five educational touring shows and an artist-in-residence program. The touring shows include *Meet Master Shakespeare*, designed for grade school aged children; *Shakespeare’s Warring and Wooing*, designed for middle and high schools; *The Fifty-Minute Midsummer Night’s Dream*, geared towards high school students; and their newest show, *Edgar Allan Poe and the Tell-Tale Heart*. During the past 16 school years, the company has given over 250 performances at more than 100 Illinois schools and reached more than 125,000 students.

The theatre is located at Mayslake



Peabody Estate, 1717 W 31st St, Oak Brook, IL 60523. Their offices are located at 146 Juliet Ct, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
(630) 986-8067
firstfolio@firstfolio.org
www.firstfolio.org

DePaul’s University awaits completion of new facilities

Below, and on page 6, see photos and renderings for a new theatre facility for The Theatre School at DePaul University’s. When do we get a tour?



'Tis the Tenure Season

By M.C. Friedrich, Michigan Technological University

Faculty in academic theatre are well acquainted with this time of year – promotion and tenure season. All tenure-track faculty reach a mandatory review a few years into their career at their college or university, when they achieve tenure or are terminated. Yes, it is all or nothing. It is a long and arduous process involving years of preparation and in the final year, assessment at many levels in the process. One of the early assessments that year is from knowledgeable persons outside the university in which the tenure-track professor works. Even in my own department tenure-track faculty are finalizing their portfolios for that all-important next step, the external peer review.

The tenure-track faculty member supplies a list of people they believe can fairly assess their work, their department committee adds more names, and their department chair chooses who to ask to review the portfolio. The letters written by external reviewers are a vital foundation for the remainder of the tenure process. These letters are referred to by the department committee, the department chair, the college committee, the college dean, the university provost, the university president, and the state higher education governing board. To put it lightly, this is a big deal. To an only slightly lesser degree, tenured associate professors wishing to be promoted to “full” professor must go through a similar process still providing names of possible external reviewers.

As a service to the USITT-Midwest Section, we have created the new Tenure Review Network: <http://www.usittmidwest.org/tenure>, a resource list of tenured faculty at the associate professor or “full” professor rank and industry professionals (non-academic), people willing to be these external reviewers. Faculty applying for tenure and/or promotion, their department chairs, and their deans may refer to this list as an immediate network of colleagues for the promotion and tenure review process.

Are you getting ready to go up for tenure? Please use this list to assist you. Are you getting ready to go up for “full” professor? Please use this list, also.

The network is in active use already. This past summer I was an external reviewer for someone in the Midwest Section area whose department chair found me from the network. As chair of my department’s promotion and tenure committee I included names from this network for a colleague’s

external review list.

This Tenure Review Network is in its infancy. If you are willing to be a part of this network, please send the following information to: M.C. Friedrich at mcfriedr@mtu.edu:

- Name
- Rank (associate professor, professor, industry professional)
- College, University, Company, or Freelance
- Disciplines which you are qualified to review (may include sub-specialties, ie. Lighting opera)
- Email address
- School/business mailing address
- 50-word bio or link to one (optional)

Any questions regarding this may be directed to M.C. Friedrich. mcfriedr@mtu.edu

Section Board Meetings Held

By: David Leugs, secretary of USITT-Midwest, Calvin College

The board of directors of the Midwest section by rule needs to meet three times each year. Due to the pressures of the school year and the regional professional theatre season, the board usually finds the best times to meet are at the regional section meeting at the annual conference in March and twice in the summer. This past summer saw two meetings hosted by Shane Kelly at the Theatre School at DePaul University, one in June and one in August.

At the June meeting, Kathleen Donnelly’s final meeting as regional chair, the board looked back at the year just completed and tied up some loose ends. Each standing committee was given opportunity to report on their past activities and provide a preview of coming attractions in the new year. This meeting also marked the first time “GoToMeeting” was employed to allow some members to attend “virtually” when their work schedules would not allow them to be present in person. Although there is no substitute for meeting together in the same room, this technology shows great potential for future meetings. In fact, at the August meeting, it allowed the establishment of a quorum, an important detail to have in place, especially when anything needs to be put to a vote!



USITT-Midwest Section Board Meetings Held, *continued*

The August meeting marked a transition in leadership, as Shane Kelly took over as regional chair. Chair Kelly took the opportunity to lay out some goals for his tenure, and urged the board to continue to do the things it already does well, while looking for ways to work better by working smarter, and in all we do, to remember that the section members are the most important cog in the section wheel. Budgets and programming were also approved for the coming year, as well as the donation of a \$100 memorial gift in the name of long-time regional section member and board member Alan Stalmah, who passed away recently.

The board spent a good deal of time at the August meeting discussing the annual conference in March 2013 in Milwaukee. As this conference will take place in our section, members from the region will necessarily be involved with both the planning for and eventual hosting of USITT members from all over the world. In short, we are gearing up to host a great conference in March!

See you in Milwaukee!

A Message from the USITT-Midwest Chair, By: Shane Kelly, DePaul University

I'm pleased to welcome you to what is going to be an excellent year in USITT Midwest Regional Section. As you know the year will be topped off with Milwaukee hosting The National Conference and Stage Expo in March, which gives us a great opportunity to showcase the vibrant theatre and entertainment industry that we are all a part of here in the Midwest Section. I'm sure that we will show our colleagues from across the country that beer, brats, and Midwestern hospitality will set the stage for an enjoyable, educational, and transformative conference. There have been and will be several calls for volunteers and assistance as we prepare for the conference, and I encourage you to embrace these ways to support the conference. For those of you who interact with students, please encourage them to apply for the student volunteer program as a great way to make attending the conference more affordable while contributing to the success of the conference.

On a more local level, the Midwest section will be continuing to sponsor and present Tech Olympics and Tech Challenge events at the local high school theatre festivals and KCACTF regional conference. We will also be conducting student design competitions again this year with a mechanical design competition coming in spring and a new twist on the aesthetic design competition, taking place now. The aesthetic design competition will be a digital competition, with two scholarships to the national conference being awarded. The deadline for submission is November 10, so if you or someone you know is interested, please contact me.

Our programming slate is a bit lighter this year, due to the conference, but we had a really

informative and enjoyable event at American Players Theatre at the beginning of October and we are currently working on planning our second event of the year—look for information soon. Another goal in pulling back the programming slate for the year is to explore some possible changes for future programming. Our goal with programming has always been to host events that are educational for members with a variety of interests and experiences while also creating great networking opportunities. That goal isn't changing, but given the demands on our members' time and current economic climate, we are looking into different ways to present programming that may be more efficient and might take advantage of the technology available to us. If you have any ideas for programming events you'd like to see or if you'd like to host an event, please contact me or Vice-Chair for Programming, Kirk Starks.

My goals for the Midwest Regional Section this year include serving all of our members—professionals, educators, and students—in having a professional community that benefits them, that they contribute to and are proud to be a part of. As members of the USITT Midwest Regional Section, we should use our skills, network, and technological resources to support each other and create a community of collaborators across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.

I hope this season will be a productive and fulfilling one for you and your collaborators.

Shane



The Theatre School at DePaul University, *cont.*



Concept rendering



Construction photo



A very recent construction photo



An artist rendering inside one of the theatres

Come See Us!

USITT ANNUAL CONFERENCE & STAGE EXPO

Milwaukee Wisconsin

March 20-23

2013

