

The Canadian connection

Protocol has invited the Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology/Institut canadien des technologies scénographiques to update readers on the vibrant Canadian association and industry.

FEW PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF CANADA really know how CITT/ICTS began. What started with two Canadian regional sections of USITT (the Alberta Section and Algonquin Section in Ontario) turned into Canada's leading organization that brings together people from the live performing industry: The Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology/Institut canadien des technologies scénographiques, or better known as CITT/ICTS. It was during USITT's conference held in Calgary Alberta in 1989 that Canadian members of USITT attending that Conference discussed the formation of a Canadian institute, an idea that was welcomed by USITT.

“ [CITT/ICTS] facilitated the translation of the rigging exams into French for the Francophone riggers in Québec. ”

A committee composed of members from both sections rose to the challenge and in the summer of 1990 submitted the legal papers to create The Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology—the French appellation would be added to the name in 2004 and legalized in 2012.

CITT/ICTS is a national, not-for-profit organization that unites professional production and technical workers as well as craftspeople in the live performance sector in Canada. Our membership consists of individual, organizational, and corporate members who are actively involved in the creation, production, and presentation of live performance in Canada.

Over the course of the next two decades, CITT/ICTS would become the connection for its members across the country. Back in the beginnings, members could communicate, share knowledge, and seek advice via the electronic forum and Intranet email messages with the help of the iconic forum called Callboard (via First Class), a predecessor of Facebook.

In 2005, CITT/ICTS played a key role in creating a pan Canadian Theatre Technicians Steering Committee set up by the Cultural Human Resources Council to create competency charts and profiles for stagehands, entertainment riggers, and automation technicians. CITT/ICTS is also represented on the Certification Council for the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) and



CITT/ICTS past presidents from 1996 to 2014. From left to right: Norberts Muncs, Adam Mitchell, Bob Johnston, Graham Frampton, Ron Morissette, Howard Van Schaick, and Robert Vernon

facilitated the translation of the rigging exams into French for the Francophone riggers in Québec. CITT/ICTS assures visibility of our performing art industry on the international scene by maintaining relationships with our sister organizations such as ESTA, USITT, DTGH, ABTT, and is Canada's official OISTAT Centre.

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Every year, CITT/ICTS organizes its annual conference and trade show called Rendez-vous in a different city. The first Rendez-vous was held in Toronto in 1991 and has travelled across the prairies, the Rockies, and the Maritimes many times. The conference offers three days of sessions, workshops, backstage tours, a trade show, the AGM, social events, and networking opportunities.

CITT/ICTS celebrated its 25th anniversary in August of 2015 during its annual Rendez-vous conference held, for the fifth time, in Vancouver. We paid homage to our founding members: Normand Bouchard, James Carnite, Patricia Christensen, Paul Court, Graham Frampton, and Ken Hewitt as well as our well-

deserving presidents, past and present:

- Ken Hewitt (1990-1994)
- Douglas J. Rathbun (1994-1996)
- Robert Vernon (1996-1998)
- Howard Van Schaick (1998-2001)
- Ron Morissette (2001-2004)
- Graham Frampton (2004-2006)
- Bob Johnston (2006-2009)
- Adam Mitchell (2009-2011)
- Norberts Muncs (2011-2014)
- Michael Harris (2014-2016)
- Adam Mitchell (2016-2018)

The year 2015 also marked the creation of Expo-Scène, a major trade show for our corporation members held in Montréal. The first edition was a resounding success with 55 exhibitors and over 1,000 visitors attending the two-day event. The show captured the spirit and the effervescence of the vibrant entertainment industry that prevails in Canada. The second edition was held on May 2 – 3, at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. Expo-Scène returns to Montréal on April 12 – 13, 2017.

As CITT/ICTS pursue its growth and prepares for its 26th annual conference and trade show hosted by the Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg next August, we salute the many members involved with the organization over the past 25 years. They were, and still are,



A vibrant Expo-Scène 2015 held in Montréal.

engaged and determined to ensure that CITT/ICTS connects the Canadian live performing community.

You can read more about our history through the words of Paul Court on our webpage <http://www.citt.org/history.html> and we are looking forward to presenting more news and articles from our membership. ■



After studying fine arts and theatre production, **Monique Corbeil** became involved in the performing arts industry in Québec and has worked in almost every aspect—from technical production and touring to management and marketing. Based in Montréal Québec, she is known as Mo, the CITT/ICTS National Coordinator, a position she has occupied since 2005.