

BY MICHAEL HARRIS

## Bringing the performing arts community and entertainment industry together

CITT/ICTS builds community throughout Canada through Rendez-vous and Expo-Scène events

### Rendez-vous—Connecting the Canadian performing arts community

FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS, many of Canada's major cities—from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Victoria, British Columbia—have hosted the Rendez-vous Annual Conference and Trade Show. This is CITT/ICTS's major annual event, which combines pre-conference professional workshops, conference sessions, backstage tours, networking opportunities, and the Annual General Meeting over

a three to five-day span held every year in August. The conference also includes a trade show component where our corporate members can present their latest technology and meet up with entertainment industry professionals. There are several social events planned in the program including a newcomer mixer, the ever entertaining Junk Challenge on opening night, and the wild and zany Swag Bingo fundraising soirée.

Distinguished figures from the Canadian performing arts milieu have been guest speakers at our annual conference including



Fog fills the CITT/ICTS Trade Show at the Ottawa Convention Centre during Rendez-vous 2014.

PHOTO: VICTOR SVENNINGSON



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Hands-on DiGiCo console training was offered at Rendez-vous 2014 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Christopher Newton, John Gray, Peter Feldman, Rae Ackerman, Tim Gosley, and John Murrell, to name a few.

The event wraps up with the CITT/ICTS awards banquet, which recognize individuals and companies that excel in their field of live performance in Canada. First implemented in 1998, the six CITT/ICTS Awards are designed to honor individuals and companies from a wide spectrum of the live performance industry: Educational Achievement, Professional Achievement, Technical Merit, Supplier (Corporate) Achievement, Honorary Membership, and the Dieter Penzhorn Memorial Award, which is awarded to an individual who has provided significant and sustained service to CITT/ICTS, while playing an active role in the development of the greater Canadian cultural community.

The nomination of candidates for CITT/ICTS Awards is driven directly by the membership. It is a chance for members to recognize the work of a mentor, colleague, or someone whose work they admire. The final selection is made by the Awards Committee composed of representatives from the regional section, the CITT/ICTS Vice-President, and either the President-Elect or Past-President.

Another important element of Rendez-vous is the Student

Volunteer Program. Since the inception of the program back in 2004, the student volunteers have played a key role in guaranteeing the success of the conference. Whether they assist in mounting



PHOTO: VICTOR SVENNINGSON

Junk Challenge winners celebrate at Rendez-vous 2014.

the trade show, setting up the social events, or helping out at the registration desk, the student volunteers contribute in making our annual event a tremendous hit. The program provides students with hands-on learning experience, unique networking, and mentorship opportunities.

Over the years, the CITT/ICTS Annual Conference and Trade Show has reached out to thousands of entertainment industry professionals from Canada and abroad, and continues its growth as Canada's unique performing arts rendezvous. This summer, Rendezvous will take place on August 18 – 20, 2016 in Winnipeg, Manitoba and will return in the eastern region in August 2017.

## Expo-Scène—Connecting Canada's entertainment industry

Expo-Scène is CITT/ICTS's newest event. Created in 2015 with the support of its corporate membership, the inaugural sold-out show attracted over 55 exhibitors and 1,000 attendees from all corners of the province of Québec as well as visitors from the Maritimes, Ontario, and parts of the Prairies.

For its second edition, over 1,400 professionals gathered once again at the Palais des congrès de Montréal on May 2 – 3, 2016. The show featured over 65 exhibitors covering all aspects of the entertainment industry from Canada, the United States, and Europe, as well as 15 different seminars and demos over the course of the two-day event.

The seminars covered several topics including presentations on remote device management (RDM) and monitoring for today's lighting systems as well as on IP networking and the challenges involved in the transmission of audio over digital networks and the various tools available to support these networks; video mapping and multi-display projections; an overview of truss systems, their connections, and load bearings; how to create visual projection on video/LED walls for concerts, theatres, etc.

There were also conferences on business marketing, environment sustainability for productions, the ESTA Technical Standards, and the ETCP program. This year, we welcomed representatives from Behind the Scenes and The AFC (formerly known as The Actors Fund of Canada)—the lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry—who shared their stories on how they can help you and



PHOTO COURTESY EXPO-SCÈNE / MARCO LAPERRIERE 2016

Over 65 exhibitors from across North America showcased their latest technology at Expo-Scène 2016.

PHOTO COURTESY EXPO-SCÈNE / MARCO LAPERRIÈRE 2016



CITT/ICTS Expo-Scène 2016 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, Québec

your co-workers in times of need.

Special guest speaker Martin Hoegg, CEO of the German-based company HOAC, presented a lecture on Modern Modular Stage Metamorphosis: new staging concepts based on existing standard concepts shown by the examples of the new orchestra set up at Royal Albert Hall, London, UK, and new staging solutions for Korean theatres.

Expo-Scène 2016 was a resounding success with more exhibitors, more attendees, more seminars and more new technology. It is our pleasure to host the only major Canadian event dedicated to professionals in the pro audio, sound, lighting, audiovisual, and multimedia technologies. The next edition of Expo-Scène is scheduled for April 12 – 13, 2017, at Palais des congrès de Montreal. We hope to see you there!

Visit our website [www.citt.org](http://www.citt.org) for more news and information about Rendez-vous and Expo-Scène. ■



**Michael Harris** is managing partner of CETEC Group, the Canadian sales representative for ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls). He began his career in the entertainment industry as a technical director and production manager, before moving into sales. For more than 20 years, Michael has crafted his sales expertise, managing and representing various lighting companies. Michael is an active member of the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) and of CITT/ICTS for which he is currently serving a presidency tenure until August 2016.



The CITT/ICTS booth welcomes visitors at Expo-Scène 2016.

PHOTO COURTESY EXPO-SCÈNE / MARCO LAPERRIÈRE 2016