

BY MATT FRANKISH



CITT/ICTS President's Report at the 2021 Annual General Meeting

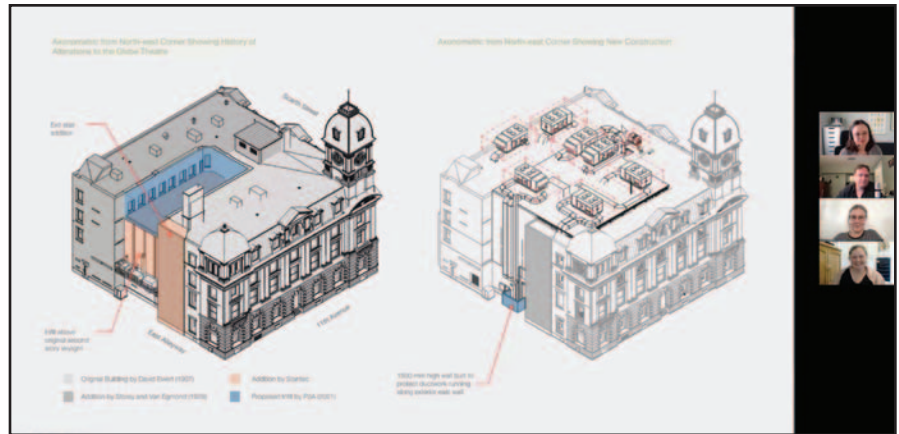
On August 12, 2021, CITT/ICTS held its online Annual General Meeting, as part of "Rendez-vous 2021 – Stay Connected" (www.citt.org/annual_conference.html). It is our great pleasure to share the message that our president Matt Frankish delivered to the members at the opening of this meeting, along with a few conference sessions screenshots. We also take this opportunity to present the 2021-2022 CITT/ICTS Board of Directors. ~ Monique Corbeil, National Coordinator

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW we found ourselves at Rendez-vous 2021 needing to meet online instead of in person. COVID-19 has extended its reach well into 2021 and it seems that the ongoing effects will last even beyond that. It's been another challenging year for the entire production industry and for CITT/ICTS as we have cancelled or postponed more and more events and put the whole industry on hold as we refactored for the new realities. But, we are now seeing the beginnings of the production industry's recovery. It does seem that we are back on the uplope towards a more normal events and performance environment.

But that will bring its own challenges.

“... we are now seeing the beginnings of the production industry's recovery.”

The seismic shift that COVID-19 brought to the industry caused a great deal of upheaval in the lives of the people who make it up.



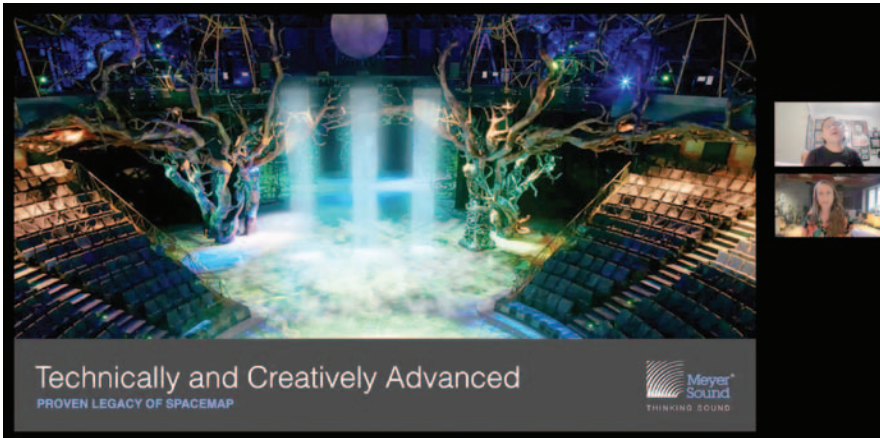
"Globe Theatre Virtual Backstage Tour" with Eryn Griffith, Devon Bonneau, Kate Jackson, and Kenilee Kehler at Rendez-vous 2021



"Canada's Significant Theatre from the 1950s" hosted by Julian Sleath, with Gary McCluskie and Simon Marsden at Rendez-vous 2021

Many have found alternative employment, or have taken the opportunity to enact other changes in their lives. As we return to a more normal level of activity, it seems clear

that the most valuable, and scarcest resource will be the people and their specialist skills. We need to ensure that we nurture, retain, and train the current and the next



"Immersive Tools for Musical Theatre Sound Design: An Introduction and Live Demonstration of Spacemap Go" with Mauricio "Magu" Ramirez and Ianina Canalis from Meyer Sound at Rendez-vous 2021

generation of production staff as we will be relying on them even more than usual in the next few years.

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One of the most important ways we can all ensure this is to take steps towards a more humane way of working. Burnout has always been an issue in the production industry, but with potential staff shortages and the stress of a pandemic and the additional measures required to navigate

that, it is a particular concern. That said, the COVID-19 Resources & Information Section of our website provides an impressive amount of resources related to our industry. There you will find mental health resources, links to financial aid, national re-opening plans, surveys and studies that gather and release important governmental and organizational data from across Canada, and so much more. Please visit, browse, and share these resources amongst friends and colleagues. [<http://bit.ly/2TUKJ6Q>]

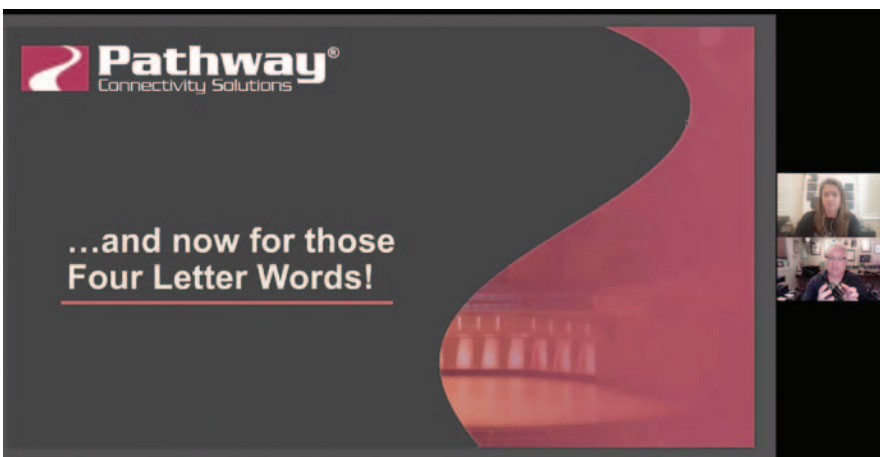
Over the last year, CITT/ICTS has undertaken a number of initiatives to continue to engage with the membership, although resources were stretched very thin. We have held regular Roundtable events

[<https://bit.ly/UpcomingMeetingsCITTICTS>] for both educational institutions and venue operators in which we discuss and share the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the successes of members as they adapt their programming to the new realities. We are in the middle of complete overhaul of the CITT/ICTS Mentorship Program, with a renewed focus on the changing needs of the next generation of production staff. The Prairie Section is working towards recognition, covering Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The various committees of CITT/ICTS each continue their work in modernizing and improving the work of the organization.

The CITT/ICTS Strategic Plan is now almost complete. We have chosen to hold final approval of the plan until the new Board members, who start at this AGM, have had a chance to review and comment on it. The changing world situation forced some reconfiguration of the plan—for example our timeline for holding online programming was moved up somewhat from the original plan—but the core aspects remain, primarily informed by the public consultation performed in early 2019 and the Board Retreat in early 2020.

“ Rendez-vous 2022 will coincide with World Stage Design 2022 at the University of Calgary in Alberta. ”

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a sincere and great thanks to our office staff, Monique and Marie-Laure, for all their hard work and adaptability during this challenging year. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers on the Board, Committees, and in the Regional Sections for your continued work for the organization. Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, for your support, understanding, and input, and particularly those members who have been affected by the second postponement of EXPO-SCÈNE. It is greatly appreciated and especially so in



"Entertainment Networking's Four-Letter Words – and What They Can Do for You" with Robert Bell and Kerstin O'Leary from Pathway Connectivity at Rendez-vous 2021

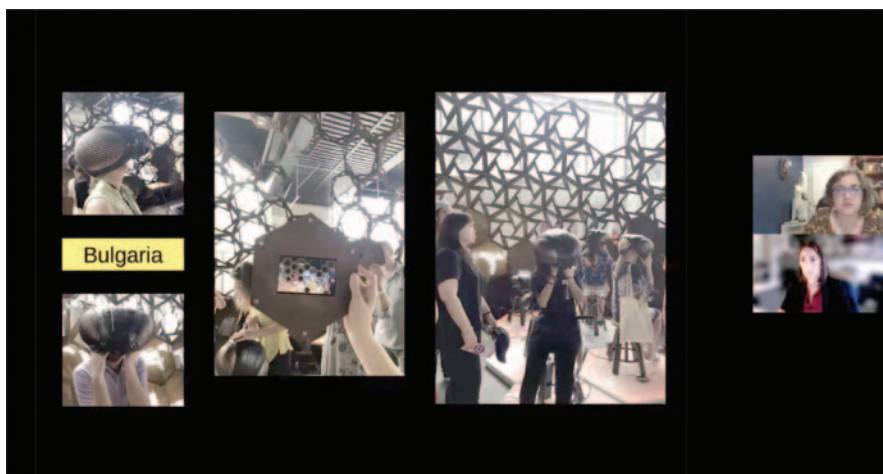
a year that has continued to be so difficult for our entire industry.

So, what lies ahead in the coming year for CITT/ICTS? You'll see the publication of the new Strategic Plan later this fall. That will provide a strong framework for our ongoing work and a roadmap that we can measure our success against. There will be a reinigorated version of the CITT/ICTS Mentorship Program that will start to roll out in the coming year. There will be a new Regional Section starting in the Prairies. In March 2022, we are planning the return of EXPO-SCÈNE at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal and we are very much look forward to seeing some of you in person again. And then in August 2022, Rendez-vous 2022 will coincide with World Stage Design 2022 at the University of Calgary in Alberta. OISTAT Members from across the world will be visiting Canada and attending exhibits, performances, and discussions. I'm excited about the event and what it will mean for Canadian design on the global stage.

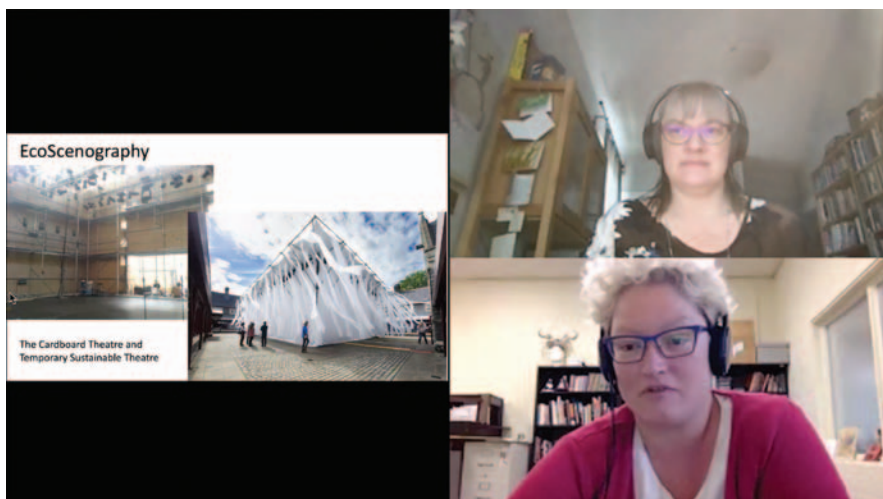
As you can see, we have a lot to achieve in the coming year, and challenging circumstances to achieve it in. I think we can achieve these things and restart the production industry in Canada not just as we were before, but better—more humane, safer, and with a renewed focus on our future. Thank you all for letting me contribute to this as best I can. ■



Matt Frankish is the President of CITT/ICTS. Originally from the UK, he lives near Toronto, ON. After 20 years working as a theatre technician and technical director, he now serves as a Theatre Consultant, designing new and renovating older theatres and other performance spaces.



"Prague Quadrennial 2023 Student Exhibit" with Alex Gilbert and Carla Orosz at Rendez-vous 2021



"World Stage Design 2022 – Your Questions, Your Opportunities" with April Viczko and Lisa Russell at Rendez-vous 2021

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