

BY PAUL DEL MOTTE, MATT FRANKISH AND CITT/ICTS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

# Rendez-vous Annual Conference and Trade Show returns to Toronto



CITT/ICTS's 33<sup>rd</sup> Rendez-vous will be held August 16 to 19, 2023 in Toronto, Ontario

## Back to where it all started

By Paul Del Motte

IN 1989 A FEW PEOPLE HAD THE IDEA that Canada should have their own version of USITT, formed from the Alberta and Algonquin (Ontario) sections. In September of 1990, a formation meeting was held in Toronto, where the groundwork was laid to form what we now know as CITT/ICTS. We returned to the city the following year for our very first National conference. Rendez-vous Annual Conference and Trade Show has evolved from there as we now return to where it all started for our 33<sup>rd</sup> take of this

exciting event.

From the 16th to 19th of August we shall be gathering at the Meridian Hall

for what I hope to be one of our more successful events to date. There will be sessions covering a full range of theatrical



Rendez-vous 2017



Rendez-vous 2018



Rendez-vous 2019



Rendez-vous 2022 Swag Bingo



Rendez-vous 2022 Trade Show



Rendez-vous 2022



USITT Toronto Conference 1991

disciplines and a large trade show on the main stage showing off new and innovative gear for the entertainment technologists. It's been a while since we've last been here, and I look forward to seeing you there, maybe striking up a conversation, sharing ideas, and telling stories.



## Rendez-vous 2023 at a glance

By Matt Frankish

The Conference Programming for Rendez-Vous 2023 is coming together quickly, with confirmed sessions on Lighting, Technical Theatre History, Standards, Technical Management, a Roundtable discussion, a panel discussion on Wardrobe, along with the usual favourite social events, and the Trade Show on the Meridian Hall stage. We have also expanded our pre-conference skills training content and will be offering both lighting and audio console training, and a scenic painting workshop.

Being in downtown Toronto has also enabled us to arrange for backstage tours of interesting local venues, including a walkthrough of the proposed St. Lawrence Centre redevelopment with the architect, and a tour of the now re-opened Massey Hall. Along with all of this, we have entered into partnerships with PM/TD Arts and ADC/IATSE who will also be providing more in-depth sessions during the conference itself.

There are a lot more unconfirmed sessions I'm not able to talk about just yet, but I'm excited about the breadth of programming we will be able to offer and the fascinating work the presenters have brought forward. Rendez-vous 2023 is promising to be an interesting conference and I hope to see many of our members there.

## Rendez-vous 2023 Social Events

### OPENING SOIRÉE – WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16

We can't think of a better way to kickstart the conference than with a relaxed and joyful celebration among friends, colleagues, and members from across Canada. Drinks, hors-d'oeuvres and networking are on the menu.

### PRODUCT SHOWCASE BREAKFAST – THURSDAY AUGUST 17

Trade Show exhibitors take center stage at the Product Showcase Breakfast as they will each have a couple minutes to showcase new products or service during this fun Show & Tell. Our trademark prelude to the trade show!

### TRADE SHOW – THURSDAY AUGUST 17 AND FRIDAY AUGUST 18

The Rendez-vous Trade Show is a unique and friendly way to meet and network with local industry suppliers, manufacturers, organizations, and schools. Held over two days on the Meridian Hall Stage, it will

feature over 30 exhibitors and schools, offering unique networking opportunities.

### SWAG BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISING EVENT – THURSDAY AUGUST 17

This event actually starts when the Trade Show floor opens, as all exhibitors are given Swag Bingo cards to distribute to conference delegates. The more booths they visit – the more cards they get! Then on Thursday evening all participants gather for a notoriously entertaining evening of BINGO where they play to win company swag and bid for donated items at the Live Auction. Swag Bingo is part corporate recognition, part social mixer, part fundraiser for The AFC... and a whole lot of fun!

### CITT/ICTS 2023 AGM LUNCHEON – SATURDAY AUGUST 19

This is the occasion to meet with the CITT/ICTS Board of Directors and organization members, learn more about the organization's and Regional Section's activities over the past year and hear about their ideas for the year to come.

*See you in Toronto this summer!*



PHOTO: MAURICIO GARZON / MILENOT PHOTOGRAPHIE - MILENOT.COM

EXPO-SCÈNE 2023



## Looking back on EXPO-SCÈNE 2023

Our other flagship event, EXPO-SCÈNE, was held on April 13 and 14, 2023 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. This major Canadian event welcomed 55 exhibitors and over 1,600 attendees from all parts of Canada and the United States. The show featured a school fair, three demo rooms, a VIP speaker demo on the show floor as well as offered two full days of educational TEC Talks and a well-attended networking cocktail party reserved to exhibitors and special guests held on the Palais des congrès private rooftop terrace.

CITT/ICTS and the EXPO-SCÈNE team wish to express their deepest gratitude to this year's visitors, exhibitors, sponsors, and partners for making this edition once again a great success. We already look forward to next year's 10<sup>th</sup> edition of EXPO-SCÈNE, which will be held at the Palais des congrès de Montréal on April 10 and 11, 2024. Interested in exhibiting at the 2024 edition? We'd be happy to welcome you for this very special edition. Visit our website for booking details. ■



**Paul A. Del Motte** is a founding member and the newly appointed President of CITT/ICTS. He has served as a Production Manager and Technical Director for the Drama Studies Program at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, for over thirty-five years. As part of this position, he has organized and supported shows of diverse eras and styles in a variety of spaces. He has worked on over 400 shows both at Mount Allison University and elsewhere, and his students have gone on to work in a variety of production areas at some of the top companies in the Maritimes, across Canada, and internationally.



**Matt Frankish** is the past-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.

For more information about CITT/ICTS's flagship events please visit:  
Rendez-vous website: [https://www.citt.org/annual\\_conference.html](https://www.citt.org/annual_conference.html)  
EXPO-SCÈNE website: <https://www.citt.org/ExpoScene.html>

**Don't miss any update!**

Follow Rendez-vous on Facebook @CITTICTSRendezvous  
Follow EXPO-SCÈNE on Facebook @EXPO.SCENE and  
Twitter @EXPO\_SCENE