
WELCOME
EDITION

USITT at Pitt

NEWSLETTER

SEPT/OCT
2023

A Message From Our Chair

Howdy everyone! I'm Elizabeth, and I'm the chair of USITT this year! I'm ecstatic to be starting off a wonderful year. It's exciting to see so many familiar faces and new ones as well. The board has planned a fun year full of workshops, fundraisers, and bonding events. We can't wait to get more people involved with theatre here at Pitt, in any and every capacity. I've made some of my closest friends through USITT, and I'm excited to help create a space for others to do the same. Feel free to reach out to me or the rest of the board if you wanna ask questions, or just have a talk. I can't wait to meet more of you all and have a marvelous year with everyone!

Elizabeth, Chair



Thoughts From Ty'Mariya

School, what a complex bubble of something and nothing all in one. Every time you get a routine the year ends. You find yourself having to prepare for a new routine, new people, and new obstacles. You'd think you'd know the game once you hit college but nope. The whiplash of the Fall to Spring to Summer to Fall pipeline is insane.

I spent the end of last spring counting down the days till the semester ended not realizing that I was trading one set of stressors for another. I was given a swift reality check stepping into a summer stock program that, as HAMILTON puts it, it was NONSTOP! I quickly missed the very thing I was rushing, school, but so is life. We rush through what feels like the hardest moments just to miss them when they are gone. I missed the late-night giggles with my friends, cramming through the chapters I was supposed to read for lecture, sending random emails for Ashley Martin and most of all my friends. I finally understood why people never stop going to school. It's so much better than the really REAL realities of working full time.

Now that I've been plummeted into what feels like the fourth week of school, I must remind myself of all the reasons I missed this crazy thing called school in the first place. I can't let myself run through the hard moments, I got to take it all in because soon it'll all be over. Even when having the

roughest day, there's something about sitting in the basement of Cathy with peers and friends, who are just as stretched as you are, laughing and lifting each other up. It's the shared tears and frustrations; the burning hot gosh; the last first potty break party in the basement; it's all the little things and more that makes every day worthwhile, even when it feels like you're just getting by.

If there's anything I learned this summer, it would be the importance of slowing down and appreciating the highs and lows and the people by your side. New phases of life will come, bringing new routines, people, and obstacles along, but one of the best parts of being a student is learning new ways to make the most of every moment and the friends you make along the way ;) So this semester, I'll walk more when I feel the urge to run and laugh more when I feel the urge to cry.

Talk less, smile more, and hug Ty'Mariya

By Ty'Mariya Moss, Vice Chair



continued

Do-Nothing-Days

I don't know what to write!

Isn't that ironic? I'm an English writing major who has no idea what to write in her first article of the year for a club newsletter she's in charge of creating. Actually, I'm literally sitting here staring at this blank page in the ten minute break of one of my writing classes right now. And despite the atmospheric effects of this writing room, I'm still lost. Drawing a blank, if you will.

There's something about the beginning of the school year that makes life impossible. I feel like it's the one time of the year that everyone (every club, every friend, every career fair opportunity) wants to do something all at once. It's probably because burnout typically starts around week three, so we've all gotta get out our energy before our social and time batteries run dry.

This burst of *things to do* does that to you a lot quicker, though, when you have leadership responsibilities for four different social activities, *plus* classes, *plus* a show to design, *plus* friendships to maintain, and Grandmas who have birthdays, and little sisters who have marching band performances you'd like to go home to see. *And*, you have a USITT article you were supposed to write . . . two weeks ago.

Oops.

It can be a lot, and I still feel as though I have imposter syndrome because I know people have more to do than me and are far more stressed out. It can be hard to feel like this and yet also feel like you shouldn't be.

The anxious three quarters of my brain like to take over in this way sometimes, and I have to tell them to can it. I have to always remind myself to just take it one week, one day, one task at a time. I have to remind myself that clubs are supposed to be *fun*, and if they're not, then I need to take a step back and breathe. Same with classes, friendships, and all of the things that build up. It might sound ironic that a newsletter for a club aiming to get you, the reader, to join said club, is telling you to cut back on social activities. However, I've recently realized that it's far more important to take care of yourself *before* you reach burnout.

So, here's your reminder that school can be a lot, and so can life. It's more than okay to take a step back once in awhile and have a do-nothing-day! (Or . . . multiple, lol.)

Don't forget to take care of yourself, whatever that looks like for you :)

By Lauren Holmes, Outreach Coordinator



High School Theatre Tech This-Or-That

By Elizabeth Amstutz, Chair

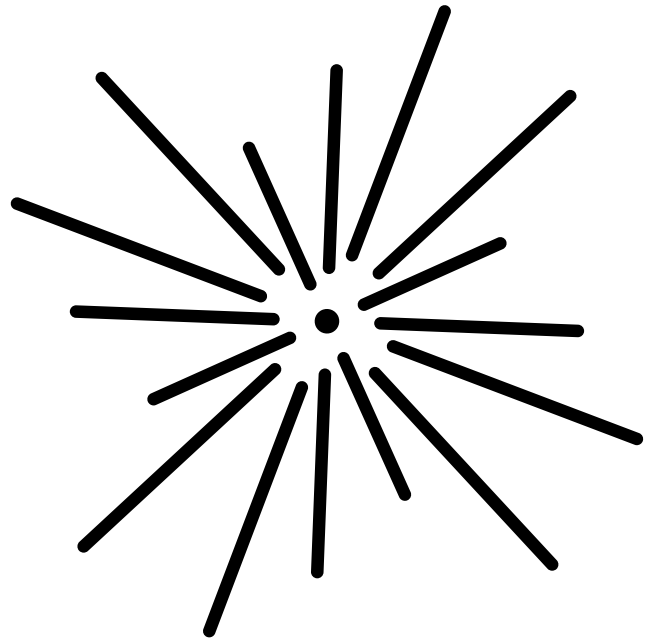
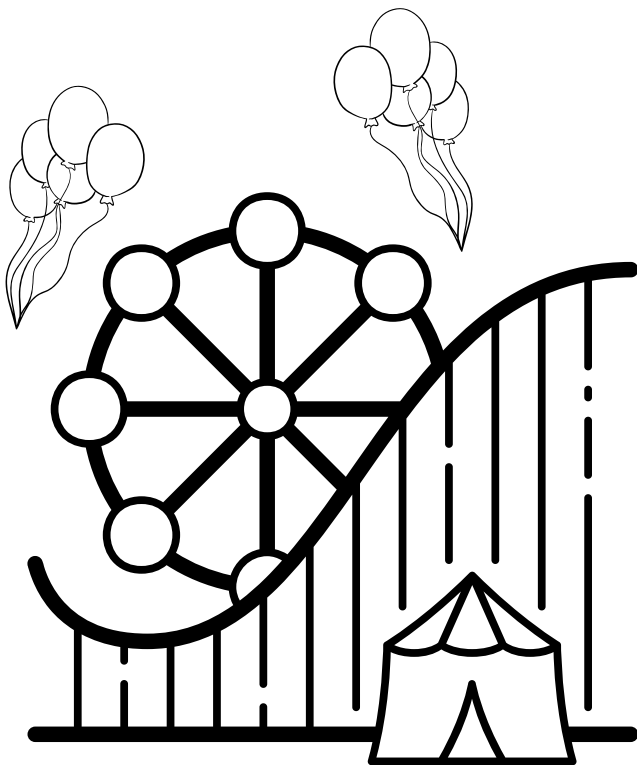
Only half the mics work	or	only half the lights work
A 57 yr old High School tech director	or	a 19 y/o college student who randomly comes back to help
One dusty 15 ft ladder	or	one creaky fly rail
A backstage techie in a white shirt	or	an actor touching a prop
A freshman with a drill and a 2x4	or	the overconfident senior stage manager

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Theme Park in the Netherlands

So, over the summer I was lucky enough to go to a theme park in the Netherlands. It was very cool, I saw two (two!!) large mechanical dragons. I also noticed the incredible sound and lighting design throughout the park. It may be because I couldn't understand the words to any of the rides (all in Dutch) that I was focusing on the design elements. But! Because I've learned about these things it makes me look at the world in a different way. I now pay attention to lighting and sound in a way I never have before. I get to wonder why they chose projections for so many things, and notice all the different ways they implement them. I think it's neat that I can learn about these things in school and then have that impact how I interact with the environment around me. I'm a computer science major because I like systems and understanding how things work, and now I get to understand how this theme park in the Netherlands makes a certain vibe or effect. I'm super excited for my final year of formal schooling, and hopefully many more years of learning on the job.

By Lynn Slutsky, Business Manager



Summer Internship

I've had a lot of amazing experiences with theatre, some through school and others in jobs and outside experiences. This past summer however, was one of my absolute favourite experiences with lighting design, though not exactly theatre. I worked as an intern at X-Laser, a company in Maryland that produces lasers for concerts and live events. I helped to hang a studio of moving lights and later spent time creating laser shows set to music. Having experienced this different area of lighting design that leans more into special effects than conventional lighting design has helped widen my view of what is possible in lighting and helped me figure out more of my style as a lighting designer. Moving forwards into this next school year, I have a new perspective on theatrical design from my experiences learning about concert design and working with different kinds of lights that aren't as often used by theatrical designers. There are so many areas of tech for concerts or other live events and performances to explore and learning about these various areas will help expand your knowledge even for theatrical design.

By Isabel Sinnott, Secretary

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What We've Been Up To

- We attended the Pitt Stages Open House as a student organization on 8/25
- We also attended the Pitt Activities Fair on 8/27
 - If you missed us at either or both, scan the QR codes below to join our list!
- Ricky and Brittany hosted a button sewing workshop with us
 - special thanks to both of them!
- We had a successful fall headshot fundraiser
 - stay tuned for another one in the spring
- Thanks to all who came to our picnic social event! We enjoyed sharing some snacks with you all
- We had a Vectorworks workshop led by Elizabeth and Isabel
- Our South O bake sale was a massive success! We're hoping to have another one before it gets too cold so keep an eye out for that announcement
 - Special thanks to Lynn's roommates - y'all rock :)

Announcements

- there have been some changes to our calendar - see them on this page!
- Follow us on instagram (@USITT_at_Pitt) and Facebook (USITT at University of Pittsburgh)
- Our website is currently under construction - standby for it being new & improved!
- Standby for poportunities!
 - Join our email list (left) and GroupMe (right)!



October Events

- USITT conference interest workshop
 - 10/4 @ 6:00pm
- Light hang/focus workshop
 - 10/13 @ 4:00pm
- Trivia night @ WPU
 - 10/21 @ TBD
- Power tools workshop with JC
 - 10/27 @ 4:00pm
- Murder mystery party
 - 10/28 @ 6:00pm
- USITT t-shirt fundraiser
- Pitt Stages overalls fundraiser

November Events

- Scenic painting workshop
 - 11/3 @ 4:00pm
- QLab workshop
 - 11/10 @ 4:00pm
- Ice cream party
 - 11/12 @ 2:00pm
- USITT beanie fundraiser

